

Table of international news rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Austria, etc.

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The saving of the Oxo building

A cube with a view

G2 with European weather

How the lottery ruined one man's life

Outrageous fortune

G2 cover story

Society

Eco-wars and the CIA

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Papers shows British officials knew of Nazi plunder despite Rifkind denial

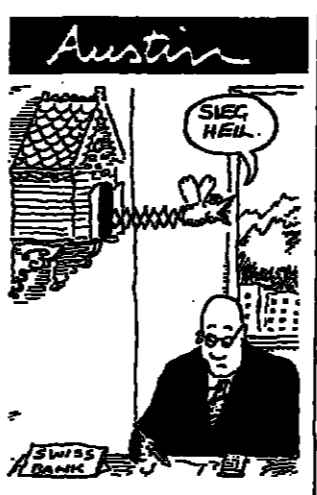
Shame of the Swiss



The Government's disclosures over missing gold have fuelled controversy about its whereabouts and why it has not been returned to its owners

Banks cling onto £4bn looted from Jewish victims

Richard Norton-Taylor... THE Government yesterday bowed to pressure to divulge the secrets of Nazi loot by disclosing that gold worth nearly \$4 billion at today's prices was deposited in Swiss banks...



chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, yesterday welcomed the FO's report but said it raised as many questions as it answered...

as well as looted Nazi gold were resmelted into ingots marked with the Reichsbank stamp, concealing its origins. 'Switzerland now has a moral obligation to think again about the gold...'

zed further into the Axis camp, both to the detriment of Britain's own war effort. The report also refers to British officials ignoring claims on the gold by individuals as opposed to governments...

Move over Madonna, Catherine Cookson goes pop



Dame Catherine... aiming for the charts with My Way

Nick Varley... EVEN her nearest and dearest were moved to tears when treated to a sneak preview of Dame Catherine Cookson's latest opus. Soon it could be you.

Dusted down after being discovered in the loft by her husband Tom and remixed at the Abbey Road studios made famous by the Beatles, the tape, entitled Her Way, will be released in November to tie in with her new novel.

Trumpet, it's a departure. And no-one is more surprised than her. 'When he [Tom] played them, I thought, who is this woman? I couldn't believe it was my voice because it sounded so good.'

TV adaptations of her books, who provided musical backing to her vocals. Ray Marshall, producer of the TV films, said: 'The tapes were very basic. Colin messed around with them and we had a sneak preview at Dame Catherine's 90th birthday party.'

Called Falling Leaves, it was inspired by a leaf falling outside the window of her home in Jesmond, Newcastle, as a bad mood was lifted by children's television programmes.

Inside... Loyalists are threatening to kill businessmen in the Irish republic after a Protestant farmer was evicted three weeks ago.

World News... Warlords have imposed Sharia law in Mogadishu to bring a harsh order to the violent streets. Thieves face amputation.

Finance... Fledgling small companies are struggling to raise capital as City fund managers panic over the Morgan Grenfell affair.

Sport... Nasser Hussain emerged as a future captain of England when he was named deputy skipper to Mike Atherton for the winter tours.

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

Defining moment

LABOUR was plunged into another policy fiasco yesterday as David Blunkett's schemes to curb public sector strikes were repeatedly revised and TUC leaders raged that their conference had been hijacked by half-baked electoral posturing.

But Labour's attempt to defuse Conservative exploitation of the current public sector disputes with proposals to introduce controls of their own backfired in a storm of contradictions. The debacle began with Mr Blunkett declaring that Labour would 'not tolerate the activities of armchair revolutionaries whose only interest is disruption'.

Armchair revolutionary: started in the US as 'armchair quarterback' - someone who knows nothing about American football but still offers opinions and criticisms freely. Evolved to armchair general in second world war and finally to armchair revolutionary, coined in the 1960s to describe academics who supported the exploits of Che Guevara in the Bolivian jungle from the safety of the Senior Common Room. Also armchair socialist, 'one who believes in socialism of word not deed, primarily enjoyed and promoted by academics holding forth from their secure and ivory towers'.

would not cover pay disputes. In the public sector, whether or not there was binding arbitration, the Government would 'have the last say'. 4pm: Crisis meeting of Labour's employment team in Blackpool. 4.30pm: Mr Blair arrives at Blackpool's Pembroke Hotel and reverses Mr Blunkett's commitment not to legislate on re-ballooning. 'We're not talking about rushing into early legislation,' he says. 4.30pm: Mr Blair meets TUC leaders, who accuse him of wrecking their conference with provocative policy initiatives. 6pm: Mr Blunkett attempts to smooth ruffled feathers at a TUC fringe meeting by emphasising that no-strike, binding arbitration arrangements would not be compulsory. He judges the legislation issue. Last night, Mr Monks said Turn to page 2, column 7

The Guardian International Umbrella advertisement with an image of a blue and white umbrella.

Order form for The Guardian International Umbrella, including fields for name, address, postcode, and payment details.

Sketch

Landing with a half-baked spin



Simon Hoggart

MR Tony Blair's helicopter landed in Blackpool yesterday for a brief visit to the TUC. Some controversy had attended his arrival.

In the morning it had been official Labour Party policy to pass laws to make trade unions hold ballots. By the afternoon this was no longer the case. According to Mr David Blunkett, there would be no new laws.

Then Mr Blair arrived to announce a third policy: there would be legislation, at some time in the future, but not yet. Some delegates claimed to be confused by this. Some even made contemptuous references to Labour's similar changes of policy over Scotland.

How little these dinosaurs understand about New Labour. Demanding that Mr Blair should have only one policy on each subject is like saying that Ben & Jerry ought to decide on one flavour of ice cream and make no other. But today's consumers demand freedom of choice. By offering a wide range of policies, policies to suit every mood and every pocket, New Labour is providing that choice.

Today's discriminating political shoppers also want freshness. You wouldn't go into a supermarket and ask for yesterday's bread. Why should you buy a day-old policy? New Labour offers a dazzling display of exciting new policies, freshly half-baked every day.

The Chief Executive of New Labour plc arrived in the lobby of the Pembroke Hotel. He was roped off from us, like a commode in Anne Hathaway's cottage. He wanted to find "new" ways forward in a new labour market, he said. He wished employees to "work in harmony" with their employers.

Someone asked him why, if they weren't going to bring in

legislation, his "spin doctors" had been telling the media that they were. Mr Blair was shocked. "Spin doctors?" he asked. "I don't know what you are on about."

His principal spin doctor, Mr Alastair Campbell, stood beside him scowling silently, in the manner of a policeman insisting that of course the prisoner's bruises were consistent with him falling out of his bunk.

But then, at this TUC conference little is what it seems. Outside a man called Darren Day is pretending to be Cliff Richard in a song-and-dance show.

Inside the Winter Gardens you might encounter Mr Arvin Scarpill, who is pretending to be a party and trade union leader.

Only rarely do we ever hear the old militancy. I had hopes of a Liverpoolian postman who shouted loudly about a shorter "ware-kin wick", but even he turned out to be a closet moderate. Often the old-fashioned ranting style is used with the new vocabulary, to curious effect. "We need additional convergence criteria!" shouted Mr John Edmonds, frothing in the way that a dozen years ago he might have denounced the Tory cuts.

I overheard a woman asking: "Have you decided what your name is going to be, Larry?" and realised that she was talking to Larry Whitty, who used to be Labour's secretary, and is now one of that curious batch of pretend peers Mr Blair has just nominated.

There are even pretend little unions. The giant Unison has 1,300,000 members. How did it avoid swallowing up the Card Setting Machine Tenders' Society (88 members) or the Military Musical Instrument Makers (66) or the Scottish Power Loom Overlookers (42) or the Sheffield Wood Shear Workers, which with 12 members is the tiniest union in the whole TUC?

Mr John Jeffers of the bank workers made an amusing speech about the way modern business people were obsessed by how big their briefcase is and how small their mobile phones are, reminding of Mr Rory Bremner's joke about addressing a convention of mobile phone manufacturers. "It's the only time I've been in a room with 600 men, all boasting theirs was the smallest."

Review

Doing it again without the buzz

Adam Sweeting

Steeley Dan Wembley Arena

THERE IS nothing like inextinguishable absence to ignite a musical legend. As Walter Becker and Donald Fagen kept finding the time to point out from the Wembley stage, Steeley Dan haven't appeared in front of a British audience for 22 years.

There hasn't been an album of new Steeley Dan material since 1980's *Gaucho*. The duo's songwriting partnership dates back 30 years, to when they were students at Bard College in New York State.

The Dan's enduring mystique and influence on other musicians are rooted in their aloofness and chilly, cerebral music. They were the gurus of cool, who seemed to dominate the late 1970s by mind control. Almost by definition, the corporate manifestation of Steeley Dan in the same ugly, echoey arenas where moral artists tread can only diminish them.

It doesn't help that the rebuilt Dan diffuse about the same instinctive warmth and charm that Frank Williams shows to his best drivers. Fagen, seated at his keyboard and resembling his keyhole Jeff Goldblum, tries to play "the deadpan MC, but he is more dead than pan. When Becker steps to the microphone, it's either to introduce the band at such length that it's as if he is trying to recreate the 70s in real time, or to utter some fatuous comment about how desperately they have been trying to return to the UK. The fact is, they have waited until

it was financially worth their while.

The Dan's peak creative years can be roughly divided between their East Coast and West Coast periods. When they were still living and behaving like New Yorkers, they wrote canny, peerlessly crafted pop songs. After transplanting to California, they succumbed to the narcissism of their adopted home, and started churning out fuzzy jazz-fusion-rock where, if you were lucky, you could discern a melody every 20 minutes.

Of course, it was the latter stuff that they mostly chose to play live. The band were mad for it, a trio of horn-men blasting out chords and solos by the yard over indeterminate chord changes, and guitarist Wayne Krantz scattering funk-jazz squitter in all directions while the rhythm section pumped away dutifully. Quite why the Dansters are so reluctant to recreate their glittering clever-pop heyday remains a mystery, but even when they play a *Do It Again* or a *Reeling In The Years*, the songs are packed with extra chords and entirely unnecessary key changes as if to blur the impact of the original.

On well. They turned to a pleasantly rumba-esque Rikki Don't Lose That Number, and Josie Sove Funkily. On the other hand, Duke Ellington's *East St Louis Toodle-oo* was even more crass and moribund than on record, while new songs like the deathly *Jack Of Speed* suggested that the long-awaited new Dan album probably isn't such a great idea after all. Nostalgia 9. The Future 0. *This review appeared in later editions yesterday.*

Snow accuses spin doctors

Andrew Gull

BULLYING and intimidatory tactics by political spin doctors are increasing, Peter Snow, the veteran presenter of BBC2's *Newsnight*, warned yesterday.

Mr Snow, who will play a key role in BBC1's election night programme, told a seminar held by the Freedom Forum in London that bullying by spin doctors was not

new, although it was getting worse.

But he said the bullying atmosphere was "unfortunately quite successful".

"There is the bullying element of spin doctors, the ringing up of programme editors after the programmes telling you it was all nonsense and that you got it wrong."

More worrying, Mr Snow argued, was when they said: "If you run that again you won't get another interview."

Iraqi leader's amnesty for defeated Kurds halts exodus as West's policy on Gulf crisis crumbles

Saddam crowns over victory

Iran Black in London, Chris Natani in Sulaymaniyah and Martin Walker in Washington

SADDAM Hussein moved quickly to consolidate his renewed influence in Iraqi Kurdistan last night, stemming the tide of refugees by offering an amnesty to Kurdish opponents and taunting Western governments now floundering over the latest crisis in the Gulf.

As the United States and Britain repeated threats to again attack missile sites — after last week's controversial cruise hits — hundreds of

Kurds returned to Sulaymaniyah, reducing fears of a mass exodus to Iran. United Nations officials predicted many more would return home.

Monday's capture of Sulaymaniyah, the region's largest city, by Missoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), gave control over almost 1 northern Iraq for a faction openly aligned with Baghdad, and a major blow to five years of Western policy.

The KDP's vanquished rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, was offered amnesty, but its leader, Jalal Talabani, was in hiding. His supporters bitterly blaming the US for letting them down.

In Baghdad, the government was jubilant. "Today the Iraqi flag flies high and the US flag is only at half mast," boasted the government newspaper al-Jumhuriya, describing Bill Clinton as "a caged hyena, rushing around in search of a way out".

In Washington, where Mr Clinton was starting to face pressure over his Iraq policy, there were signs that more missile attacks could be imminent, if only in frustration at the sudden shift in the regional balance of power.

Stressing that the main US concern was still President Saddam's ability to threaten his neighbours to the south.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said the US was ready to react to the rebuilding of the Iraqi air defence system. Four sites hit last week had been repaired, the Pentagon said.

Military action will do nothing to address the key difficulty: Western countries now face — the future relationship between the KDP and Baghdad. The US and Britain said they hoped the Kurdish factions could resolve their dispute.

The emergence of a single Kurdish authority could be helpful, particularly to meet the humanitarian challenge, said one diplomat. "But not if it is an Iraqi client."

Yet most governments accepted that Baghdad's hold has been significantly strengthened. "Saddam will eat up the north," predicted one US official.

Diplomats admitted there were grave doubts about the future of humanitarian relief under Operation Provide Comfort, as well as about a UN agreement that allows Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil in exchange for desperately-needed food and medicine.

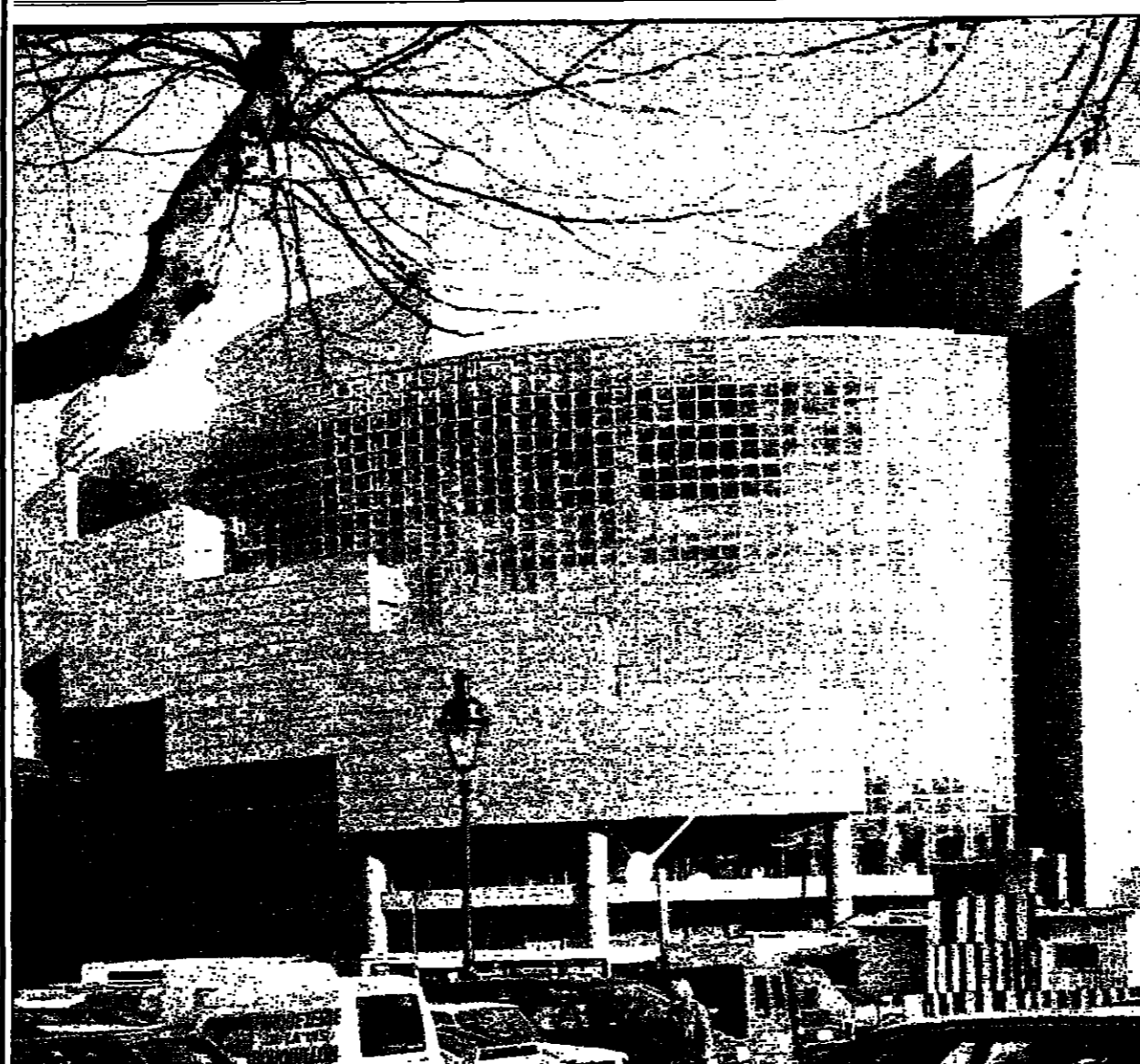
British charities working in Kurdistan said they would be unable to operate because of fears of intimidation and hostage taking, as well as suspicions of Turkish collabora-

tion with the Iraqis. The UN said it was still preparing for a potential refugee crisis. Iran, braced for up to 200,000 refugees, appealed for international aid.

Refugees streamed to one of at least four border points but witnesses later said that hundreds of Kurds were returning home, reassured that Iraqi troops were not moving into Sulaymaniyah.

In Washington Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole warned Mr Clinton against giving unrealistic assurances "because the credibility of the US is at stake".

Convoy descends, page 7



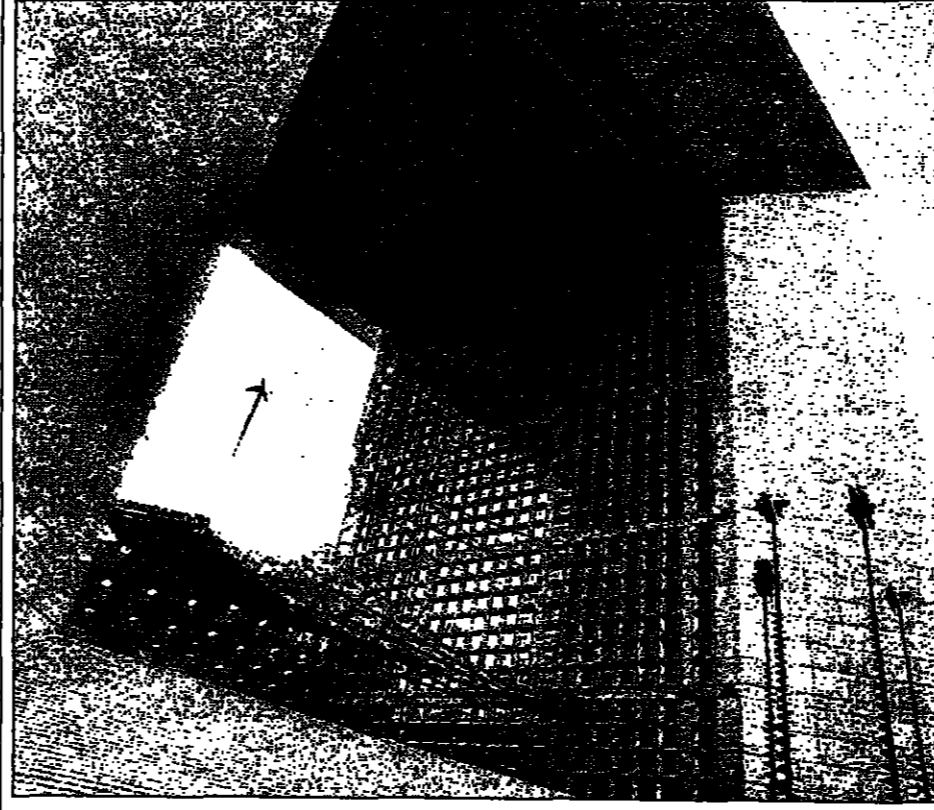
The six-year-old Bastille opera house, from which lumps of masonry are falling, is being clad in netting this week

Le Crunch

Centre Georges-Pompidou Houses: Museum of Modern Art, a public library and Centre for Acoustic Research. Completed: 1977. Architects: Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano. Cost: 998 million francs (£124 million).

Grande Arche de la Défense Houses: a viewing point, the industry of tourism and private offices. Completed: 1988 and inaugurated with a Jean-Michel Jarre concert on the bicentenary of the revolution in 1989. Architect: Otto von Spreckelsen. Cost: 3.7 billion francs (£450 million).

Opéra de Paris-Bastille Houses: One of the two main stages for opera in Paris, with the mission of popularising the art — cheapest tickets 60F (£7.50). This week's performance: *La Bohème* directed by Jonathan Miller. Completed: 1989. Architect: Carlos Ott. Cost: 3.8 billion francs (£470 million).



The 110-metre Arche de la Défense may need all its 35,000 marble tiles replaced

Mitterrand's Paris vision crumbles

Monuments commissioned by France's 'megalomaniac' ex-president are falling apart, writes Alex Duval Smith in Paris

DETRACTORS of François Mitterrand's 14-year presidency pointed long ago to cracks in his policies. Yesterday, they claimed to have found allegorical proof, with reports that monuments he commissioned are crumbling.

But architects and town planners sprang to the defence of the Grande Arche de la Défense and the Bastille opera house, from which lumps of stone have been dropping.

Modern structures, they said, are technically ground-breaking, with the result that costly repairs are often necessary within a few years.

The six-year-old Bastille opera house is being wrapped in 18,000 sq ft of protective white netting this week.

touristic business district — has over two years been covered by a patchwork of nets to prevent sections of marble from working loose.

Both are among President Mitterrand's grand projects — seven buildings and monuments in the French capital which he commissioned at a total cost of nearly £4 billion between 1981 and 1988.

Only the Louvre pyramid is an unmitigated success. The others — the finance ministry at Bercy, the science and music centre at La Villette and a natural history museum — have been criticised for their looks, their usefulness or their cost. The unfinished and much-delayed national library is considered the biggest white elephant of 20th-century Paris.

Critics such as Yves Thréard, who writes for the rightwing *Figaro*, say the late president was a mega-

lomaniac. Even Mitterrand's supporters were often irritated by his grandiose pronouncements. Four years before he was first elected, he said: "In any city, I feel like an emperor or an architect. I choose, I decide, I build."

Mitterrand was following in the footsteps of other masterbuilder-presidents. His rightwing predecessor, Valéry Giscard-d'Estaing, commissioned the Pompidou Centre, completed in 1977.

This week, the culture ministry is expected to announce the closure for refurbishment of the avant-garde culture centre in central Paris.

The centre will close next autumn. It is expected to reopen in time for France's millennium celebrations, after a 285 million facelift.

The modular building has encountered structural problems — including rust caused partly by pigeon droppings.

Architects evaluating decay on the 110-metre Arche de la Défense have said they may have to replace all 35,000 marble tiles.

The bill for mending the Bastille opera — constructed at a cost £470 million has been estimated at £1.6 million but may be considerably higher. After a storm in 1990 when chunks of limestone fell from the facade, surveyors discovered that builders had enlarged the holes which allow the limestone cladding to be attached to the concrete behind it.

Architects deny that Paris is littered with monumental failures, constructed too fast and with insufficient attention to detail.

BT cuts bypass local callers

Nicholas Barnister Technology Editor

BRITISH Telecom is to reduce the cost of phone calls by £214 million through a package of price cuts which could save the average residential customer £5.60 a year.

But consumer groups claim BT is again offering more savings to business than residential customers. Local calls — the majority of calls by BT customers — are not affected by the cuts, which come into effect on October 8.

BT is to reduce the cost of weekday national calls — over 35 miles — by 20 per cent in the evenings and at night, and by 10 per cent during the day. International calls to 15 countries are to be cut by up to 25 per cent. BT said they were popular routes where it had been able to negotiate lower costs with the local carriers.

However, it admitted that it faced most competition in these areas. Long Distance International, one of the cut-price telecom operators, said it was already charging half the BT rate on these routes.

The international price cuts are, with the exception of

the United States, Canada and Ireland, for calls to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, where BT is keen to expand.

BT has to cut call charges by a further £183 million by the end of July next year to meet the Ofcom-imposed target of £417 million.

The next price control regime, which comes into effect next year, is less onerous than the present one since it covers only residential business and limits price rises to 4.5 per cent rather than the current 7.5 per cent before inflation.

The National Consumer Council welcomed the cuts but said BT had "failed to reduce the cost of local calls, the most popular and important calls for the vast majority of its customers".

Its acting director, Robin Simpson, said: "Last year BT stated its desire to offer a variety of options, such as low standing charges or higher rental charges in exchange for reduced call costs if the price cap on line rentals was lifted." He said: "But there is no sign of these packages materialising."

Mercury, BT's biggest rival in the UK, said it was reviewing its position and would make changes if necessary.

Union fury over policy fiasco

continued from page 1

Labour had made some positive proposals on fairness at work. Other union leaders were less diplomatic.

Low Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union Aslef, accused Mr Blair of "union-bashing".

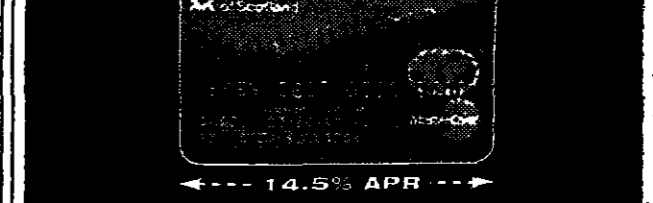
"It is simply beyond belief," he said, "that a Labour government should be considering introducing anti-union legislation. David Blunkett should go back and look after his own job in education and employment."

Union leaders argued that Labour had weighed into complicated issues, issuing soundbites without working out the detail.

Mr Blunkett last night insisted he was simply beginning a consultation process.

Before dining with TUC General Council members last night, Mr Blair denied union-bashing and said there was a "sensible element" in the TUC that understood a "new era of industrial relations was upon us and they are behind us".

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The Guardian
King child
Stephen Bates



Farmer Eric Graham's father-in-law, former Presbyterian Moderator Rodney Sterritt, during the eviction: 'It's a very trying time' PHOTOGRAPH BY TREVOR MORRIS



Eric Graham's father, Bob, with whom the evicted family are staying near their former home

"We are a peaceful family, we want nothing to do with threats. We have never been interested in politics and have no connections with loyalist paramilitaries. These threats will not help our situation."

Eric Graham, evicted Protestant farmer

UFF issues dairy farm death threats

David Sharrock on a cross-border campaign launched after Protestant's eviction in republic



LOYALIST paramilitaries are threatening to kill businessmen and police officers in the Irish republic and poison food products on supermarket shelves after the eviction of a Protestant and his family from the state's largest farm.

The highly unusual cross-border intervention has been made by the Londonderry brigade of the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) three weeks after the Graham family was evicted from the Grinan estate in Co Donegal for failing to make their mortgage repayments.

The organisation's leadership in Belfast denies involvement, suggesting a loyalist split similar to that between the Ulster Volunteer Force and Billy Wright.

The paramilitaries claim to have injected Donegal dairy products on sale in Ulster supermarkets with insecticide.

Donegal Creameries last week paid £3.7 million for a large portion of the family's former Grinan estate near Burnfoot. Managing director John Keon and four board members have received death threats.

The Grahams bought the 3,000-acre farm in 1989 for more than £3 million, making it the largest and most expensive farm in Ireland. But last month they were forcibly removed following a protracted and acrimonious dispute with the National Irish Bank which lent them the purchase money.



Managing director John Keon, who received a death threat

A 72-hour UFF deadline to a number of people expires today. Yesterday Mr Keon said the threats were being taken seriously. He was contacted by a man calling himself David Savage, who told him to listen very carefully before warning him of the danger of proceeding with the purchase of the estate.

"I explained that we were forced to bid in order to secure the milk quota attached to the land which is to be shared among other farmers and that the transaction was already completed. When he heard that he sympathised with me and hung up."

"Loyalists in the north-west feel that the expulsion of the Grahams and the fortress set up on the farm is an anti-Protestant action," the UFF said.

The brigade said its threat was issued in support of Protestant farmers in Burnfoot who, it claimed, had been unable to harvest crops due to the security presence.

"If this was the other way around and it was the Catholics who were being evicted from farms in Northern Ireland Dick Spring [the Irish Foreign Minister] would be up here protesting to Sir Patrick Mayhew [the Northern Ireland Secretary]. This warning should be taken seriously."

The UFF stressed that the Graham family had not called on them to intervene. Nobody from the family, who are staying with Eric's father Bob at his home near their former farm, was available for comment yesterday.

Earlier this week Eric Graham said: "We are a peaceful family, we want nothing to do with threats. We have never been interested in politics and have no connections with loyalist paramilitaries. These threats will not help our situation."

The Londonderry UFF threat also casts further doubt on the continued participation of the Ulster Democratic Party in the Stormont talks. The UDP has links with the UFF, a *nom de guerre* used by the Ulster Defence Association.

But the religious dimension of the farm dispute appears to be an alarming sign of escalating rancour. Mr Graham's father-in-law, Rodney Sterritt, is a former Presbyterian Moderator. Yesterday Dr Sterritt, speaking from his home in Bangor, Co Down, said: "It's a very trying time for them and they are just bearing up as best they can."

King steps into child sex crisis

Stephen Bates in Brussels
THE king of Belgium last night stepped into the burgeoning political crisis engulfing his country in the wake of increasingly sordid revelations about child sex and political corruption. King Albert II's unprecedented plea for urgent reform of the judiciary followed the arrests of 23 people — 11 of them police officers, including three detectives — as part of the interlinked investigation into vehicle crime, child abduction and paedophilia.

Alcopops cost Babycham dear

Ian King
SALES of Babycham, one of the country's most famous tipplers, have tumbled 60 per cent in two months, the apparent victim of the phenomenal growth in the sale of alcopops. Now its owners admit its future is under review.

Clark the manufacturer of Babycham

Clark, the manufacturer of Babycham. Combined sales of alcopops have raced from a standing start to an annual £500 million. Matthew Clark suffered something of a hangover after it conceded profits would be "materially affected". Shares crashed 235p to 495p, knocking £208 million from the group's stock market valuation.

The machine confirmed there had been two winners of the \$32 million jackpot. Even then, Post insists he was less than ecstatic. "If you look at the pictures you won't see a smile on my face. It didn't feel right."

Ian Katz, G2 cover story

Dixons

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Dixons
There's a great deal going on

Sixteen Hackney councillors quit party over inquiry into child abuse claims after long-running row

Split rocks Labour council

Sarah Bosley

SIXTEEN Labour members of Hackney council resigned from the party yesterday claiming that the council leadership's proposals for an inquiry into the activities of Mark Trotter, an alleged paedophile who ran a children's home in the London borough, were grossly inadequate.

The walk-out by a band who have been at odds with the council's Labour old guard over issues of corruption and mismanagement for more than a year, will embarrass the national party, whose officials in Waltham Road have aligned themselves with the other faction.

The Labour rebels allege that maladministration, corruption, and secrecy have been endemic in the council for years. Although their fight is against the council, they also supported the borough's director of housing, Bernard Crofton, who was sacked and then reinstated for his allegations concerning recruitment fraud.

Labour Party officials last night called on them to resign their seats. "These councillors have failed the people who elected them," said Terry Ashton, general secretary of the Greater London Labour Party. He accused them of playing politics with the Trotter affair.

Labour nationally has tried hard to suppress the divisions in Hackney. Five of the rebels were barred in July from holding council office after an inquiry into allegations that the group, referred to then as the Manifesto Group, were a party within a party.

People in the borough," said Mr Ashton. "Councillor Ross and his colleagues have instead chosen to play their own selfish political games."

News in brief

Spanish fishermen face 'tough battle'

THE multi-million pound claim by the Spanish owners of 97 UK-registered trawlers for compensation from the Government over its fishing policy faces a difficult passage, a High Court judge warned yesterday.

Anonymity for abuse victims

VICTIMS of sexual and physical abuse, and their alleged attackers, may be allowed to speak anonymously to the tribunal investigating incidents at council-run children's homes in North Wales. The judicial inquiry yesterday held its first public session with a pledge that witnesses should be able to give evidence without fear or embarrassment.

Parents sue over death

THE parents of a girl who died after a heart operation went wrong said yesterday they would sue Great Ormond Street children's hospital, London. Six-year-old Debbie Jenkins, from Sprowston, Norfolk, died after a balloon being used inside a catheter burst during the operation.

Radio 3 marks 50 years

RADIO 3 is to mark its 50th anniversary with a new production of George Bernard Shaw's play, *Man and Superman*, the first drama to be broadcast on the station. The original production went out on the Third Programme on October 1, 1946.

Girl remembers killer

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl who survived a frenzied attack which left her mother and sister dead has regained her memory of the attack, police said yesterday.

Rastafarian turns to BNP for help in move to Africa

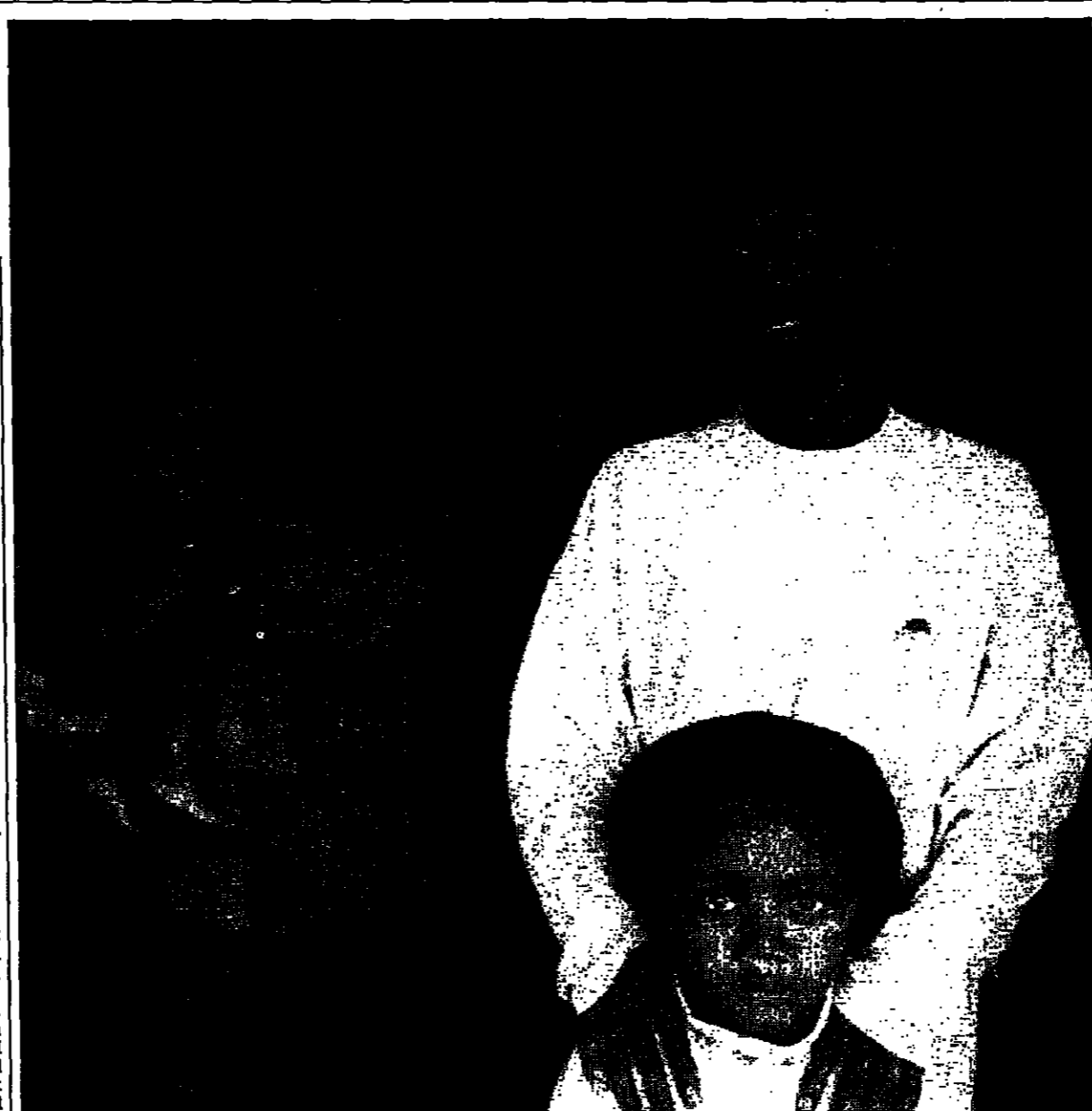
Vivek Chaudhary

ARCHE O'Brien has a dream — to live in Africa, he says, of all black people. But getting there from his home in Edmonton, north London, has proved something of a problem for the Rastafarian, who approached several black organisations and his local MP Bernie Grant, only to be told he could not get any money to relocate his family.

Mr O'Brien said the BNP advised him to write to the Home Secretary, and send him details about the Government's repatriation scheme.

So Mr O'Brien, aged 26, has enlisted the help of the far-right British National Party (BNP) in his quest to live in Africa, preferably Ghana, where he plans to set up a development centre, build houses and teach "Africans at home and abroad about their cultural heritage".

Mr O'Brien, an unemployed chef born in Bermuda and living in London for the past two years with his wife and two children, said: "I approached the BNP because there was nobody else who wanted to help me. They have been very supportive. In fact, they've been more helpful than most black people. They have listened to me and said they would write letters to the Government and other organisations. I have realised we are both on the same track."



Archie O'Brien and his family... 'the BNP have been more helpful than most black people' PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Prince urged to clarify views on Church and faith

Leading churchman calls on future monarch to end confusion over beliefs

Vivek Chaudhary

THE Prince of Wales must clarify his views on Christianity and the role of the Church of England in order to end the confusion surrounding his religious beliefs, a senior member of the Church said yesterday.

Charles were to become king then his position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England might become titular rather than active. However, others within the Church have defended the prince, claiming that his belief in Christianity is "as strong as ever".



George Austin... 'time to end ambiguity'

Mr Austin added that the prince also needed to clarify statements that he has made earlier, saying that as king and head of the Church of England he wanted to be seen as "defender of faith" — rather than as "defender of the faith".

Mr James reserved his criticisms for Rumphrey Carpenter, author of Lord Runcie's biography. He said: "I object to the way it was written and there was a failure to carry out proper research."

Mr Austin added: "The book includes private pastoral conversations between Lord Runcie and members of the royal family. There is a concern that the family will no longer trust senior clergy, which they need to do. Members of the royal family need people they can confide in who are outside the royal circle."

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'Tarka' dunes lose nature reserve status in cows row

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

ENGLAND'S largest area of sand dunes yesterday became the first site to have its status as a National Nature Reserve removed, after a row between its owners and English Nature.

Sir George Christie, owner of Branton Burrows in north Devon, is unhappy with the way English Nature have been managing the site, and under present legislation English Nature cannot insist on managing it.

Although the 12,000-acre site which attracts 50,000 visitors a year was made famous as the setting for the Tarka the Otter book, animals are now the problem in the shape of cows allowed to graze there. David Townsend, for English Nature, said: "We need to put a few cattle and sheep on the area to keep down the scrub and coarse grass. This allows wild flowers to flourish... (but they) will disappear unless the management is properly conducted."

However, Raymond Coldwell, agent for the estate, said: "We want to conserve the Burrows as the Christie family has done successfully for four centuries."

"We do not want non-indigenous cattle grazing the dunes with unknown results. It could amount to vandalism of such a splendid asset to the British Isles."

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NOW WE'RE TALKING PENSIONS

July 1996

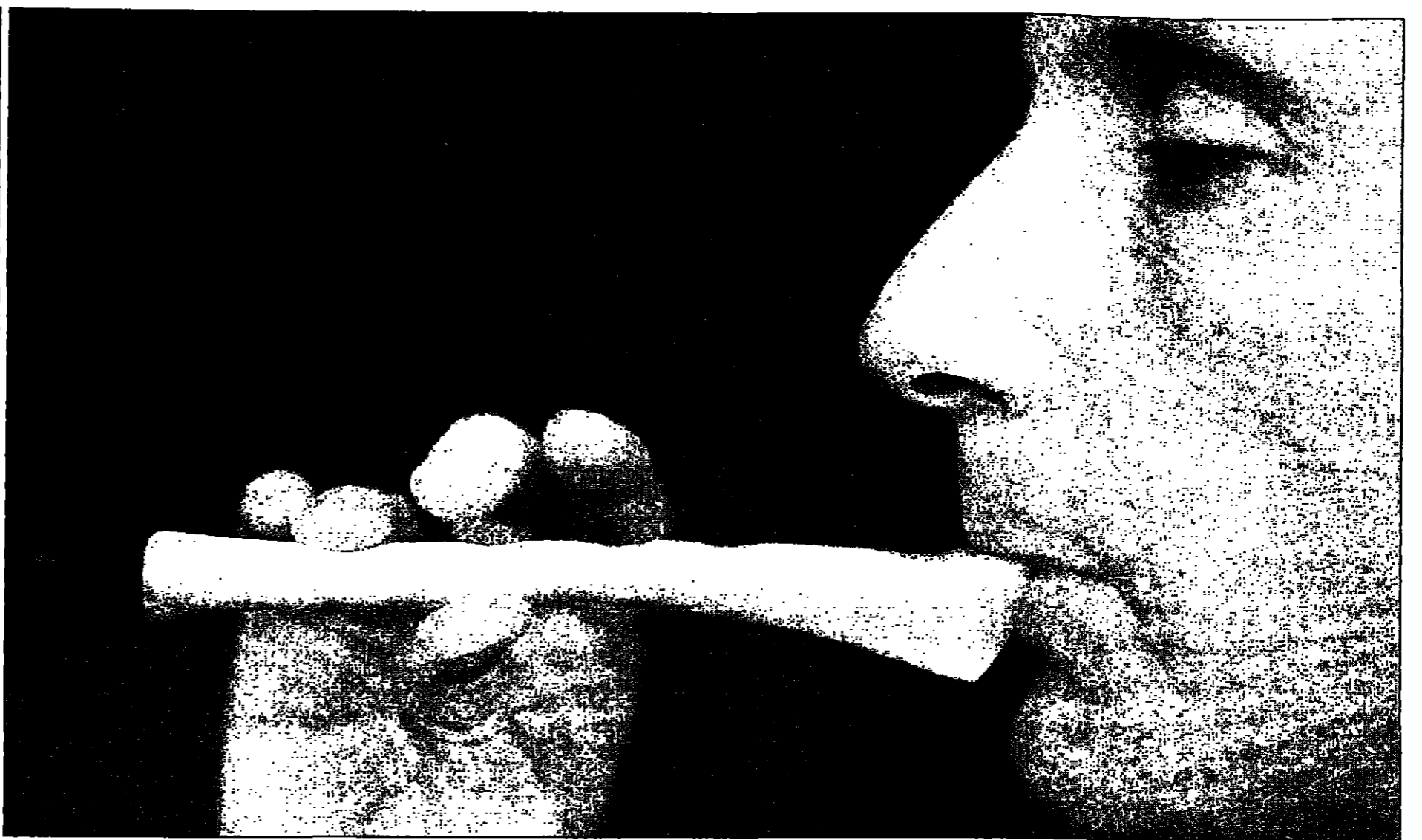
British Association science festival in Birmingham

Scientists aim to 'talk' to coma patients

Tim Radford Science Editor

ELECTRONIC engineers and neuroscientists will next year begin using new technologies to try to "talk" to patients in deep coma in British hospitals. Electrodes which can read electrical signals of one millionth of a volt in sites in the brain linked with finger movements will discover whether people with brain injuries are truly unconscious, or awake but helpless. They will ask victims unable to move a finger whether they can think about moving a finger, and will "read" the answer in a surge in the brain. The research, based on neural network computers, could help produce wheelchairs which paraplegics can control merely by power of thought, or ejector seats which will operate even when the pilot is pinioned by the forces of an aircraft plummeting out of control. The project, Stephen Roberts of Imperial College, London, told the British Association's annual science festival in Birmingham yesterday, grew out of research on alpha rhythms in the brain. People could think of relaxing, and strengthen these rhythms, or do mental arithmetic and make them weaker. "You can actually use this to perform an on-off decision," he said, "switching a light on or off or moving a cursor on a screen or whatever."

Then neuroscientists discovered movement planning. If a subject was asked to raise a forefinger after a five-second interval there would be a distinct signal from one part of the brain, the motor cortex, two seconds before the action. This part of the brain was called the motor cortex homunculus. Dr Roberts said: "It is a brain's eye view of our body." Communication by brain-wave is being tested on able-bodied volunteers. "On the imagined movements we can predict and describe which finger was being moved with an accuracy of 80 per cent," he said. "This is still nowhere good enough for someone with no motor control whatsoever to control a wheelchair, for instance." That might be five or 10 years in the future, but in the meantime the technique could be used to assess patients in a comatose or near-comatose state. The first tests would be on patients known to be conscious but unable to move much more than a finger. The researchers would then have to settle the ethical questions involved in experimenting on people in apparently deep coma. "There are a lot of people in hospitals round the world who have had severe brain injury and who have had life support. They may eventually come out of their coma, and tell of a nightmare situation of being relatively conscious of their surroundings but utterly unable to communicate in any way," he said. The research has defence implications. "The US has a large project which has been running for a decade. In the early days they were looking at implanting electrodes inside a soldier's or a fighter pilot's brain, and having a jack-plug on the neck. Unfortunately a lot of these people contracted meningitis." One aim was to fit a "thought button" to trigger an ejection seat when the pilot of an aircraft was unable to move while in a high g-spike. It would, of course, be hazardous for the pilot even to think about ejecting when the plane was flying normally. "I guess you have to have an on-board computer which monitors the g-forces and works out whether they are thinking about ejecting in a situation in which they can't physically move."



Bona fide... Musical archaeologist Graeme Lawson, who has been trying to recreate prehistoric sounds, blows on a replica flute formed from a sheep bone. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Waking dreams 'behind claims of alien kidnap'

ALIEN abduction — which 4 million Americans believe they have suffered — could simply be modern versions of old myths, a psychologist told the festival yesterday, writes Tim Radford. Little green men have more to do with waking dreams than extraterrestrial forces, said Susan Blackmore, of the University of the West of England. She has been researching sleep paralysis, a condition which was necessary "because otherwise you would act out your dreams." "However, occasionally something goes wrong with the mechanism, if you are very tired, overworked, excited or worried. Then you may find yourself slipping into paralysis before you are properly asleep, or

waking up and finding yourself still paralysed from dreaming." A Japanese survey found that 40 per cent claimed to have experienced the phenomenon. Researchers induced it in a sleep laboratory, and Dr Blackmore found that 34 per cent of children and 46 per cent of adults reported having such experiences, often with a sense that there was "someone there". The experience could be detected in folklore. People in Newfoundland reported an old hag who sat on their chests at night; the Vietnamese have a "grey ghost". Medieval incubus and succubus, demons that tormented sleep, were also likely to have been accounts of sleep paralysis.

Early woman walked tall 3½m years ago

PREHISTORIC woman was no slouch, she walked upright, scientists announced yesterday, writes Jane Aylrod. The question of whether our early ancestors walked on two legs or four has been one of the major controversies of evolutionary studies. Now researchers at Liverpool university have designed a computer model to demonstrate how a 3.6 million-year-old fossil from east Africa, called Lucy, would have walked. The model, which took more than three years to develop, demonstrated that Lucy's dimensions would have made her fall over if she had walked like a chimpanzee. "As soon as you start moving habitually bipedally on the ground, you really have no choice," Robin

Crompton said at the festival. "You either walk erect or you're extinct." To have survived on the ground, humans probably evolved as bipedal (two feet) walkers in the trees. "It is much easier to be a lousy biped in the trees," Dr Crompton said. "On the ground you have one choice and that is to get the forces under your foot right." Scientists had thought that humans were semi-erect, like chimpanzees, 3½ million years ago. Now it looks as though we were up and running at least 2 million years before this. "Lucy was regarded as one of the first semi-bipedal hominids. [But] Lucy is a fairly committed erect biped, so we're going back now to a period between 4-6 million years, at least, in evolution."

Jail population soaring

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor THE jail population is rising so rapidly that a new prison is needed every three weeks, the director general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, warned yesterday. The 1,000-a-month increase in the prison population raised the risk of again using expensive police cells and the return to "slopping out" eliminated only six months ago, he told a Howard League conference in Oxford. Despite the early release last month of 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences, the jail population last Friday stood at 56,150 — 10 per cent higher than a year ago. The acceleration in prison numbers ahead of the "two strikes and you're out" sentencing package from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, next month comes as staff

morale proves increasingly difficult to maintain. About 1,500 staff including 10 senior prison governors will leave at the end of this month under a voluntary redundancy programme. Mr Tilt said prison numbers were increasing so rapidly that they had already outstripped official forecasts published four months ago, which predicted the population would hit 60,000 by this time next year. The increase is being fuelled by crown courts sending more serious offenders to prison and for longer periods. The Prison Service expects the crunch time to come early next year. Mr Tilt said: "I do not know how we are going to get through January to March next year. There is a serious risk of resorting to hugely expensive police cells at that point." A further 100 prisoners have already been made to share cells built for only one

inmate and the Treasury has funded a crash £45 million programme to reopen five Victorian prison wings to provide 2,000 further places. But Mr Tilt said the Treasury needed to come up with further funds for a building programme next year if he was not to resort to hugely expensive police cells or use moth-balled wings which lack insect sanitation. "The Prison Service would like to do constructive things with many of the prisoners. But it is at serious risk of not being able to do this because of the rising prison population and budget reductions that do not seem sensibly achievable," the director general said. The Prison Service's forecasts exclude official estimates that Mr Howard's sentencing proposals to be included in this autumn's Queen's Speech will add a further 10,000 to the prison population over the next decade.

Number up as lottery tickets point finger at criminals

Sarah Ryle BUYING a lottery ticket can win you millions, but if you are a criminal it may also land you in jail. The small pink slips have helped police forces destroy bogus alibis and increase the chance of conviction. Camelot, the lottery organiser, helps police "on a daily basis" to investigate crimes by breaking false alibis. A code on each ticket identifies where it was bought and the precise time and date. Possession of a ticket is not proof of purchase, but Camelot said yesterday that police had found the information invaluable in numerous cases. Camelot's senior investigator, Michael Pottinger, said: "The police contact us when they have arrested a suspect if they have found a ticket. We help them tie down the person's movements. We have been to court on many, many

occasions to give evidence — including cases when somebody has been accused of armed robbery." However, after a spate of alibi-breaking when the National Lottery began two years ago, the underworld has realised that being arrested with a ticket in your pocket is not a clever thing to do. Camelot is also likely to get requests for help in murder cases. Police trying to trace somebody's final movements have used tickets on 25 occasions. Camelot has nine regional investigators, all former police officers. Mr Pottinger, who heads the team, said: "Most of our work is to do with fraud against the lottery, although we have cut that down, but we are always glad to assist the police." Greater Manchester Police said that it used lottery tickets as it would use rail or bus tickets. "It is a line of inquiry," said a spokeswoman.

Data challenge to BT

Owen Bowcott and Jack Schofield A RADICAL challenge to British Telecom's control over directory inquiries information was launched by a German software firm yesterday, amid claims that it may breach data protection regulations and allow subscribers' home addresses to be traced more easily. Topware CD Service, based in Mannheim, is offering the contents of every UK telephone book on a single CD-ROM disk. The program, costing £19.95, will enable users to carry out reverse searches, typing in telephone numbers and retrieving names and addresses. Lists of residents of entire streets or buildings, matched to their telephone numbers, can also be compiled. BT said last night it was seeking legal advice about in-

fringement of its copyright, while Ofcom, the telecom regulator, said the product undermined industry guidelines. The Data Protection Registrar's office is investigating. Topware, which unveiled its UK-Info disk during this week's European Computer Trade Show at Olympia, London, said it was prepared to fight a legal action, and claimed it had won similar cases in Germany and the US. "We have a German version which has sold 2½ million copies," said Alistair Crawford, Topware's representative. "Deutsche Telekom sued us but failed to stop us selling it." "We took our information from BT telephone directories, and BT will take us to court for breach of copyright. I have no doubt about it, but if they stop us selling it in Britain we'll sell it overseas, or through the Internet. What are they going to do? Deutsche Telekom has been trying

to stop Topware for three years, and they've failed. "We are saying this data is public. It is free data and they have no right to claim the copyright. That is the ruling the US Supreme Court gave." Despite the existence of electoral registers, which are already in the public domain and can be matched, laboriously, to telephone directory entries, Ofcom insists reverse searching, particularly using merely numbers to extract addresses, breaches agreed telecom regulations. "There is a code of practice between us, BT and the other telecom companies that reverse searching would not be made available because of the need to maintain privacy," an Ofcom spokesman said. "It does not, however, have any legal standing. These people do not have a licence from us, so we probably can't take any action." BT said: "They are in breach of customer privacy."

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Fear rules in divided Mogadishu

John Simpson on two contrasting fiefdoms in the Somali capital — one governed by guns and the other by the harsh tenets of Islamic law

MOGADISHU must be the most divided city on earth. Several distinct factions confront each other across great swathes of wrecked buildings and empty streets. There is not just one front line, there are two. In the city centre lies an area known jokingly to the Somalis as the Bermuda Triangle. If you venture in, you are unlikely to emerge alive.

There is a clear dividing line between southern Mogadishu, held by the faction of the late General Mohammed Farah Aided, and Ali Mahdi Mohammed's northern Mogadishu. Even when there is little fighting, the line is nerve-racking to cross. In the silence of no-man's-land, the buildings are appallingly smashed.

Filming here can be an unhealthy business. Our camera crew was filming a few extra shots in no-man's-land for Newsnight the other day. It seemed peaceful enough, but suddenly a group of militiamen turned up and arrested them. One militiaman took up a position in a doorway beside the car, put a round into

the chamber of his AK-47, slid off the safety-catch, and aimed at the cameraman's head. It was then that our bodyguards earned their money. The best and toughest of them, nicknamed "Little Ears", walked quietly across to the man with the AK, took him by surprise and smashed him in the face, knocking out his front teeth. After that, the crew managed to get back to the relative safety of our hotel.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that force is the only thing that can succeed in this Hobbesian world of warfare. Nothing short of calculated violence would have sorted out that situation. For those of us who want to believe in better, more rational and peaceful ways of behaving, Mogadishu forces us to reconsider — just as it destroyed the good intentions of the United States and United Nations troops who intervened here between 1992 and 1995. This is a place where ferocity seems, depressingly, to work. Nothing else will do.

Southern Mogadishu is controlled by the militias loyal to Hussein Aided, the US-educated son of the late general who died of wounds on August 1. His gunmen are reasonably well-disciplined, but they can do what they like here. As a result the streets are quiet and tense, and the shopkeepers operate nervously. At night the area is completely dark. Any European venturing out then is effectively committing suicide.

As you cross no-man's-land, you pass from an area where the gun is the only law to one in which the most savage punishments are restoring a kind of order. The streets of northern Mogadishu bustle with economic life, and you rarely see a gun. There are even a few policemen around, directing the traffic and ticking off small boys. At night, the streets are properly lit.

This part of the city is run by an uneasy alliance between the pragmatic Mr Ali Mahdi and the leading Islamic cleric in Somalia, Sheikh Alidheri. Two years ago, the sheikh forced through the introduction of sharia courts to try offenders according to Islamic law and subject them to its punishments. These are, by Western standards, ferocious. The theft of goods worth more than about £7.50 means the loss of the right hand. If a gun is used in the crime, the left foot is cut off as well. As we made our way to Sheikh Alidheri's court, we came across a severed hand and foot lying abandoned in the dust. Someone had just suffered the penalty for armed robbery.

Warlord swaps gun for posters

Bosnian Elections

Julian Borger in Bijeljina

IN THIS impoverished city, the Bosnian tragedy has turned full circle. Arkan, the warlord whose pogrom against Bijeljina's Muslims in April 1992 unleashed the wholesale ethnic cleansing of Bosnia, is back in town. This time he is waving flags, kissing babies and fishing for votes in Saturday's elections.

On a radio set lit stage before a huge Serbian flag, Arkan continues his four-year struggle for a pure and unified Serb state. There are no guns, in their place are posters, stickers, banners and loud, happy music — and £150,000 donated by the international community in the interests of free and fair elections.

Arkan's Serbian Volunteer Guard, the "Tigers", who were photographed in 1992 executing Muslim civilians, have returned wearing business suits and expensive jewellery. They maintain a buffer between Arkan and his appreciative supporters.

Arkan — real name, Zeljko Raznjatovic — is not a candidate himself, having been born across the Drina in Serbia, but he has come to support candidates from his Serb Unity Party (SSJ). He stands back and applauds politely as they expound his ideology.

Finally it is his turn. He steps up to the microphone with the SSJ salute, an awkward manoeuvre in which the tips of thumb and first two fingers are held together. It symbolises the unity of Serbia, Montenegro and "Republika Srpska" (the Serb-held territory in Bosnia).

Asked who blew up the mosques and purged the 30,000 Muslim population, he shrugs again. "I don't know. I wasn't there."

He has been named by Washington as a war criminal, but has not yet been indicted by the war crimes tribunal at The Hague. If he is, he says, he will not go to defend himself.

"The Hague is a political court. It is not a court of justice," he says.

Like other parties standing in Saturday's elections, the SSJ has received campaign funds from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, even though its platform — a Greater Serbia, implied dismemberment of Bosnia and formation of a pan-Serb army — run counter to the Dayton peace agreement, to which all candidates must swear compliance.

Arkan, relaxed and speaking fluent English, explains the misunderstanding. He supports Dayton and will support Serb participation in multi-ethnic Bosnian institutions. His dream of Serb unity is a long-term vision: "Germany waited 50 years."

Arkan believes Bosnia will eventually fall apart. "Nothing can stand which is not natural," he says, warning that if he leaves there could be more violence. In the event of a Muslim or Croat attack, the Tigers would defend Bosnia's Serbs.

He calls for the Republika Srpska to become part of Nato. Membership would help rid the Serb homeland of the "communist generals" who lost the war.



Miners (left) keep up the search for gems in the scarred 'moonscape' of Sierra Leone, the country where some of the largest diamonds in the world, such as the one pictured right, are unearthed. Illegal mining and smuggling have been rife since the rebel war began in 1991. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN GAUNAY

Rich pickings but empty coffers in Sierra Leone

How can a country with some of the finest diamond deposits be one of the poorest? Claudia McElroy reports from Koidu

FROM his veranda, Paramount Chief Abu Mhawa Kongorma views with bitterness the neglected buildings and potholed roads of Sierra Leone's diamond capital, which he says has seen little benefit from more than 60 years of mining.

Digging around the eastern town of Koidu, in the diamond-rich Kono district, has turned the landscape into a moonscape, its extracted wealth far away on the European diamond market. Despite the civil war which wrecked the country's mining-based economy and killed 15,000 people, foreign investors and indigenous miners continue to be lured.

"This area is the promised land in terms of mining... Sierra Leone should be one of the richest countries in the world. Instead it is one of the poorest," the chief said.

So why are state coffers empty when official export statistics show that in 1995, 213,000 carats reached the European market? One reason may be that since rebels of the Revolutionary United Front launched a guerrilla campaign from Liberia in 1991, rendering much of the east and south inaccessible to security forces, illegal mining and smuggling has proliferated.

It costs an estimated £147 million a year in lost foreign exchange. Some argue that the war is an excuse, alleging that state authorities have for 60 years had a direct stake in the trade, enriching themselves, not the treasury. Others blame foreigners for controlling the profits. The South African mining company De Beers dominates the world market, determining supplies and artificially boosting prices. On a national level, buying is largely monopolised by about 30 licensed Lebanese dealers and a few unlicensed Guineans. Then

there are foreign mining companies with seemingly risky investments. Branch Energy Ltd of Britain has invested \$9 million in six mining and exploration projects since 1995. "Sierra Leoneans will benefit, principally through the employment opportunities," the company's head, Alan Patterson, said. "What we're doing will provide a massive boost to the economy."

Such confidence may seem surprising in view of Sierra Leone's political volatility. Four years of military rule, which saw two coups, ended in March when Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was sworn in as president, after the first democratic election in almost 30 years.

The overriding factor attracting foreign investment is the outstanding size and beauty of Sierra Leonean diamonds. The Koidu Kimberlite pipe is famous for yielding gems such as the 968-carat Star of Sierra Leone.

The other factor is the presence of a South African-based "private army", Executive Outcomes (EO), which has been helping to train Sierra Leone's military forces and to secure mining areas against the rebels.

Branch Energy denies it has any contract with EO, just as the South Africans deny being granted a diamond concession in return for their services.

EO's intervention has been largely welcomed. "We are very impressed by the performance of Executive Outcomes," said Chief Kongorma. "If they were to leave, you would see every Kono man with his bundle on his head, leaving."

As long as security is maintained, the obsessive search for diamonds will continue. Digging through foundations has caused several houses to collapse, in one case killing 17 people.

"At least three-quarters of miners are illegal, mainly because it is very expensive to buy a licence," said a clandestine dealer. "These activities are seldom monitored because everyone is equally involved."

Including government officials, the chiefs, the army and the police. They only intervene when they are looking for bribes.

Six soldiers were in custody yesterday in connection with a plot to attack Mr Kabbah's home and overthrow his government.



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Spain labours on as nation of potential separatists

Adela Gooch in Madrid reports on the high costs of genuine devolution in the third in a series on regionalism in Europe

ACALL by four Catalan bishops for the Church to defend "nations deprived of their freedom" has laid bare the separatist sentiments that still lurk beneath Spain's surface despite extensive regional autonomy.

Basques and Catalans — traditional aspirants to nationhood whose battles with centralising Castile have recurred throughout Spanish history — now enjoy more real power over their affairs than ever before. But in redressing the wrongs most recently perpetrated by the former dictator General Francisco Franco — who even banned regional languages — the fathers of Spain's democratic constitution turned all Spaniards into potential separatists.

The country was divided into 17 autonomous regions. Basques and Catalans enjoy a greater degree of devolution, but all regions have their own president, parliament and civil service. Overall, the cost of running the system is enormous, and likely to grow.

Since 1993, the balance of power in Madrid has been held by moderate Basque and Catalan nationalists. The left is divided between the former Communist Party and the social-democratic Socialists. Many Spaniards remain hesitant about voting for the right.

The nationalists have demanded a high price for their support — from the Socialists in 1993, and the conservative Popular Party (PP) since this year's election.

The Catalan regional president, Jordi Pujol, traditionally complained that, while Catalonia had always been the economic locomotive that pulled the rest of Spain, it was never the driver. That has changed. Sick of subsidising the rest of the country, Mr

Pujol has secured a concession to be allowed to collect and spend 30 per cent of income tax. This is hastily being applied to all the regions, with the long-term repercussions unclear.

The problems are not just financial. Regional bureaucracies may have helped temper soaring unemployment, but they have done nothing to foster much-needed entrepreneurial spirit.

To justify their existence, regional leaders authorise expensive, inefficient schemes and create private fiefdoms. Responsibility for issues that could be handled more efficiently by central government, such as tourism, has been delegated to the regions. The potential for confusion and buck-passing is enormous.

Language, too, has become a political tool. Schools, universities and those working in the public sector are obliged to use Basque and Catalan. Some Catalans complain that nationalism has turned their traditionally open society inward.

The devolution process continues. Spain's prime minister, José María Aznar, campaigned on a platform to settle the degree of autonomy given to each region.

After failing to secure a majority in elections last March, Mr Aznar learnt to love nationalism fast: a PP leader in Catalonia who questioned the leverage they exerted in central government has just been forced to resign.

The key issue is whether the system of regional government has solved the Basque and Catalan problems that prompted its creation.

"We use the peseta to put pressure on Madrid; Basques use the bomb," said one Catalan, in a crude but accurate assessment.

Separatist violence by the Basque terrorist group Eta remains a staple feature of Spanish life, and has claimed about 800 lives since 1968. Nevertheless, the number of



deaths this year — four — is the lowest in 20 years. Just less than 12 per cent of Basques vote for Herri Batasuna, Eta's political wing, which advocates a separate state with a radical, leftwing agenda. But the party's support is waning, and more and more Basques openly condemn the violence.

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مكازم التحصيل

IRAQ CRISIS: Kurdistan Democratic Party gains upper hand • US intelligence admits plot against Saddam failed



A Kurdish peshmerga loyal to the KDP celebrates victory as he enters Dukan on a truck after the northern Iraqi town was captured from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

Convoy rides into fearful city

Chris Nuttall in Sulaymaniyah sees a temporary exodus sparked by memories of Saddam's forces

EVERYONE wanted to know if the Iraqis were coming as we drove into this northern Iraqi city yesterday morning, ahead of a long convoy of victorious peshmergas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

But there was no sign of any Iraqi forces as we drove before dawn from the KDP's headquarters in Salahuddin down the main highway to Sulaymaniyah. There were signs that Baghdad had helped with some long-range shelling from camps set up 15 miles south of Irbil, but the KDP needed no assistance on its long thrust on Monday through mountainous terrain to take Sulaymaniyah from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a demoralised and defeated opponent.

At first light we passed through the town of Dukan, where hundreds of KDP fighters were mobilising to reach the city and chase the PUK to the Iranian border. As dawn broke, a long column of vehicles, including pick-up trucks mounted with machineguns, was speeding south-eastwards. The vehicles were packed with peshmergas singing and clapping, the yellow flag of the KDP flapping wildly from each vehicle.

The traffic spanned the road, as there was nothing coming out of the city. The convoy blared horns as it entered Sulaymaniyah. Children stepped into the road to hand the fighters yellow flowers and bang on their bonnets. Off the main highway the town was silent, with most residents locked up indoors or fled to the border. They gradually emerged as it became apparent that Saddam Hussein was not involved. Hundreds returned from the border throughout the day, and the KDP leader, Massoud Barzani, arrived to announce a general amnesty for PUK members. Aid workers said the town had fallen on Monday night in less than an hour, with the only fighting reported at the crossing near the town of Penjwin. Aid workers described the situation as tense, with heavily armed PUK men among those desperate to leave. No water supplies or sanitation facilities were available and people lay wounded on stretchers. Some families were camping in minefields. "This is in one of the most heavily mined areas in the country and I expect there will be some mine injuries," said Ian Wilderspin of the Save the Children Fund.

Later in the day, between 5,000 and 10,000 people waited at the crossing near the town of Penjwin. Aid workers described the situation as tense, with heavily armed PUK men among those desperate to leave. No water supplies or sanitation facilities were available and people lay wounded on stretchers. Some families were camping in minefields. "This is in one of the most heavily mined areas in the country and I expect there will be some mine injuries," said Ian Wilderspin of the Save the Children Fund.

The group, based in Jordan, is known as the Iraqi National Accord (INA). The CIA identified it last winter as the organisation with the greatest potential to unsettle President Saddam. But it was successfully penetrated by Iraqi security in June, a government official said. The CIA-backed INA, after Washington had become disenchanted with the CIA-funded Iraqi National Congress (INC), based in Irbil, northern Iraq. With Iraq's recent capture of Irbil, the INA has been virtually shut down and some of its members executed. The setbacks to the two dissident groups represent a significant defeat for longstanding US hopes of destabilising President Saddam's regime. US policy-makers made it clear on Monday that they had no intention of helping to rescue or evacuate about 200 INC members who remain trapped in northern Iraq. The INA is primarily a Kurdish organisation, with little influence outside the northern areas inhabited by Kurds, while the INA is led by Sunni Muslims, the majority ethnic group in Iraq. The CIA gave millions of dollars to both groups, but had not been "operating, running or controlling" either, an administration official said. The agency avoided direct contact for fear of placing the dissidents in jeopardy. In July the archbishop, aged 63, was booted at a funeral for Tutsi massacre victims in Bugendana when he said there were extremists among Burundi's Tutsi minority and Hutu majority. "I have seen it many times but I condemn violence on both sides," he said. Angry Tutsi mourners also pelted the archbishop, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, with cow dung, forcing him to flee. Later that day Mr Ntibantunganya took refuge in the United States ambassador's residence, two days before an army coup. — Reuters

Iraq executes CIA-backed dissidents

MORE than 100 Iraqi dissidents and military officers associated with a CIA-financed effort to topple the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, were arrested and executed this summer by Iraqi security agents who had penetrated the group, according to United States officials. Dissidents and members of the targeted organisation. The group, based in Jordan, is known as the Iraqi National Accord (INA). The CIA identified it last winter as the organisation with the greatest potential to unsettle President Saddam. But it was successfully penetrated by Iraqi security in June, a government official said. The CIA-backed INA, after Washington had become disenchanted with the CIA-funded Iraqi National Congress (INC), based in Irbil, northern Iraq. With Iraq's recent capture of Irbil, the INA has been virtually shut down and some of its members executed. The setbacks to the two dissident groups represent a significant defeat for longstanding US hopes of destabilising President Saddam's regime. US policy-makers made it clear on Monday that they had no intention of helping to rescue or evacuate about 200 INC members who remain trapped in northern Iraq. The INA is primarily a Kurdish organisation, with little influence outside the northern areas inhabited by Kurds, while the INA is led by Sunni Muslims, the majority ethnic group in Iraq. The CIA gave millions of dollars to both groups, but had not been "operating, running or controlling" either, an administration official said. The agency avoided direct contact for fear of placing the dissidents in jeopardy. In July the archbishop, aged 63, was booted at a funeral for Tutsi massacre victims in Bugendana when he said there were extremists among Burundi's Tutsi minority and Hutu majority. "I have seen it many times but I condemn violence on both sides," he said. Angry Tutsi mourners also pelted the archbishop, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, with cow dung, forcing him to flee. Later that day Mr Ntibantunganya took refuge in the United States ambassador's residence, two days before an army coup. — Reuters

The official said CIA officers secretly stationed in Salahuddin, north of Irbil, had given advance warning to the INC of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) assault on Irbil, giving its members time to flee. The official rejected criticism of the CIA's stance by Republican politicians, saying President Bill Clinton's administration had warned the KDP leader, Massoud Barzani, that "he must take care of these people" in the INC. The official said Mr Barzani "knows he may want to broker a deal with the United States some point" if his alliance with President Saddam breaks down. A statement by the INA confirmed that, during the summer, the Iraqi government had arrested and executed dissidents linked to it.

The killings are a setback for US hopes of toppling Saddam's regime

The group claimed that "in addition to civilian elements, brothers in the Army's Air Force were arrested as well as elements from special security forces, and other heroes from the armed forces." A senior US official said the INA had evidently been betrayed from within. Another US official attributed the setback to a failure to maintain security. According to several dissident sources, President Saddam was able to penetrate the group in part by monitoring the activities of a courier who carried information between its sympathisers in Iraq and its headquarters in the Jordanian capital Amman. The arrests started on June 26, 1996, says a Washington Post article, published an article, partly based on interviews in Jordan with INA leaders, stating that it had received funds from the CIA and was working "feverishly" to topple President Saddam. — Washington Post

India defiant as UN prepares to vote on nuclear test ban treaty

AS THE United Nations prepared yesterday to approve the draft global nuclear test ban treaty, India dismissed it as a "worthless piece of paper". The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would permanently bar all nuclear explosions, is expected to be ready for a formal signing when world leaders gather at the UN for its annual session later this month. But last night's General Assembly debate was rendered virtually meaningless by India's continued opposition to the treaty on the grounds that it is discriminatory against the nuclear have-nots. "As the CTBT text stands, it cannot go into force without India's acceptance," an Indian foreign ministry official said. "Sadly, therefore, it will be passed but only to remain a worthless piece of paper." The treaty cannot take effect until all 44 countries with nuclear arms or power stations, including the three nuclear "threshold" states — India, Pakistan and Israel — have signed and ratified it. Pakistan also refused to sign because of India's stance. Munir Akram, Pakistan's negotiator at last month's Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, said adoption of the CTBT by the assembly "should herald a new dawn in the history of the quest for nuclear disarmament. Instead a dark sun has appeared over the skies of South Asia. The challenge posed by our neighbour is not only to the CTBT. It is a challenge to the international consensus for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation." The General Assembly vote follows India's decision last

month to block the treaty's adoption at the Geneva conference. Australia made the imaginative move of bringing the treaty to the UN — a tactic never before used to win adoption of a key arms control treaty. Israel was a co-sponsor of the resolution, causing many Arab countries to abstain on board. British diplomats said CTBT was passed. "I don't see us being pressurised by sheer numbers," he said. "India will cast a negative vote." Malaysia's envoy at the UN, Razali Ismail, said that while the nuclear powers had foisted upon the rest of the world a treaty that did not end the nuclear threat, it was a step in the right direction. Many non-nuclear countries have grumbled at the lack of a timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons. India's ambassador to the UN, Prakash Shah, argued that computer simulation and laser tests could "open the way to fourth-generation nuclear weapons testing even without explosive testing". He also said that India is today and to achieve its intended purpose, the CTBT should have banned not only test explosions but all nuclear tests which could lead to development of nuclear weapons. Iran expressed similar reservations but, in a surprise move, supported the resolution.

efforts would be made to persuade India to sign, perhaps in the form of some regional agreement to allow its security concerns. The hope is that many countries will sign the treaty in the following months, putting pressure on India to join the club. But the Indian foreign secretary, Salman Haider, told a news conference that New Delhi would not give up its nuclear option even if the

CTBT was passed. "I don't see us being pressurised by sheer numbers," he said. "India will cast a negative vote." Malaysia's envoy at the UN, Razali Ismail, said that while the nuclear powers had foisted upon the rest of the world a treaty that did not end the nuclear threat, it was a step in the right direction. Many non-nuclear countries have grumbled at the lack of a timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons. India's ambassador to the UN, Prakash Shah, argued that computer simulation and laser tests could "open the way to fourth-generation nuclear weapons testing even without explosive testing". He also said that India is today and to achieve its intended purpose, the CTBT should have banned not only test explosions but all nuclear tests which could lead to development of nuclear weapons. Iran expressed similar reservations but, in a surprise move, supported the resolution.

News in brief

Burundi archbishop 'murdered by Hutus'

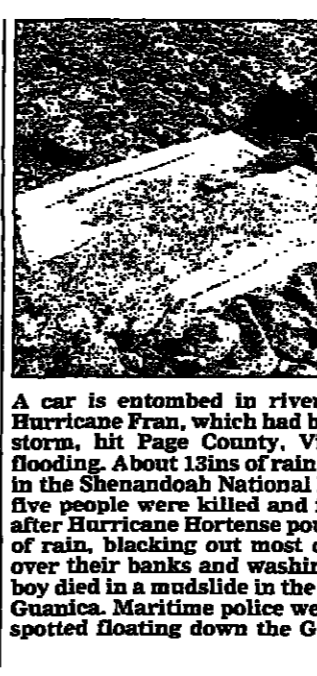
HUTU rebels murdered the Roman Catholic archbishop of Burundi and three other people in an ambush on his car, the archbishop said yesterday, citing witnesses who saw his body. A spokesman said Archbishop Joseph Ruhuna, Burundi's most senior Catholic cleric and a member of the Tutsi minority, was killed on the way to Gitega, in the centre of the country, on Monday. A Burundian nun and two unidentified people were also killed. Three people travelling with them were missing. The car was ambushed at Murongwe, three miles north of Bugendana village, in an area described by aid workers as a Hutu rebel stronghold. In July the archbishop, aged 63, was booted at a funeral for Tutsi massacre victims in Bugendana when he said there were extremists among Burundi's Tutsi minority and Hutu majority. "I have seen it many times but I condemn violence on both sides," he said. Angry Tutsi mourners also pelted the archbishop, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, with cow dung, forcing him to flee. Later that day Mr Ntibantunganya took refuge in the United States ambassador's residence, two days before an army coup. — Reuters

Hawaii court considers ban on gay marriage

A COURT in Hawaii yesterday began hearing arguments about the legality of same-sex marriage, with the onus on state lawyers to justify banning such unions, writes Mark Tran in New York. Deploying testimony from child psychologists, the state will argue that a man and wife are best suited to the development needs of a child. But legal experts expect the judge to rule in favour of Joseph Melillo and Patrick Lagon and two other gay couples who initiated the case in 1991. In 1993, Hawaii's supreme court ruled that the ban violated the state's constitution, and called on the authorities to justify the prohibition in court. The case has created repercussions that have reached Washington. Coincidentally yesterday, the Senate was due to vote on — and expected to approve — legislation which deprives gay couples of many of the civil advantages of marriage by withholding federal tax, pension, health and other benefits from them. The bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, would also allow states to ignore same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. President Bill Clinton has said he will sign it into law.

Ailing Yeltsin loosens grip

THE Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, has handed the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, partial control of key ministries as he prepares for heart surgery but kept the nuclear "red button", the Kremlin said yesterday. Mr Yeltsin's decision appeared designed partly to curb the ambitions of his national security adviser, Alexander Lebed. Mr Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said that senior ministers would report directly to Mr Chernomyrdin and, if necessary, he could summon the newly formed Defence Council of ministers and General Lebed. Mr Yeltsin, aged 65, is to undergo heart surgery at the end of the month. — Reuters



A car is entombed in river rock after the remains of Hurricane Fran, which had been downgraded to a tropical storm, hit Page County, Virginia, causing widespread flooding. About 13 tons of rain were dumped on headwaters in the Shenandoah National Park in one day. Meanwhile, five people were killed and four were missing yesterday after Hurricane Hortense pounded Puerto Rico with 18 inches of rain, blacking out most of the island, sending rivers over their banks and washing away cars. A two-year-old boy died in a mudslide in the south-western community of Guanica. Maritime police were trying to rescue 11 people spotted floating down the Guamanzi river in their house. PHOTOGRAPH: CATHY KUSHNER

Sudan has helping hand from Iran

IRAN has offered to help Sudan break out of its international isolation by providing economic and humanitarian aid to the Islamic military government of General Omar Hassan al-Bashir. Four Iranian Hercules C130 transport aircraft are already being used as an air bridge between Tehran and Khartoum, and Arab diplomatic sources say they have been carrying food, medical supplies and radar equipment as part of an aid package agreed with the Sudanese government. Inevitably, the sources say, the Iranian aid will help the Sudanese army prosecute its war against anti-government rebels in the south. But Tehran Radio yesterday described the air bridge as "tangible evidence of the strategic importance of Sudan to Iran in its international struggle against the [United States] and its followers in the region". The US has accused both Iran and Sudan of supporting Islamic terrorists. Last April, the United Nations Security Council imposed diplomatic and travel sanctions on Sudan after Khartoum refused to hand over three men suspected of trying to assassinate the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak. Last Sunday, the Iranian president, Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, arrived in Khartoum on a two-day visit to consolidate ties between the two countries. Iranian officials accompanying the president said the trip was to "lay the cornerstone of a new and strong alliance to confront US

attempts to impose its hegemony on the Arab and Muslim world". It is a measure of the importance Tehran attaches to its developing ties with Sudan that Mr Rafsanjani was accompanied by 300 political and military advisers. At the end of the visit, Sudanese officials also disclosed that the Iranian president's brother, Mahmoud, would head a task force to oversee joint projects between the two countries. The Rafsanjani visit coincides with reports of further government repression in Khartoum, including last week's attempt on the life of the former prime minister, Sadeq al-Mahdi, the leader of the country's al-Ummah opposition party. Mr Mahdi claims a government security guard pointed a pistol at his head at a mosque in his home city of Omdurman. A spokesman for the al-Ummah party, Dr Omar Noor al-Da'em, said worshippers managed to disarm the guard before he could pull the trigger. "Twelve more planned assassinations were in this despicable conspiracy", he added. The Sudanese government, which denies any involvement, claims an innocent civilian was beaten up by Mr Mahdi's supporters when he tried to record the sermon on his tape recorder. In another development, the Sudanese government has confirmed that all telephone, road and air links have been cut between Khartoum and Port Sudan. The opposition says this follows a mutiny led by an air force officer in Port Sudan, but the government blames highway robbers and bad weather.

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Former border guards jailed

Six former East German border commanders were yesterday convicted in a Berlin court of overseeing the killing of citizens who tried to flee to West Germany, and were sentenced to up to six and a half years in jail. All six had been accused of enforcing the shooting of would-be escapees from 1979 to 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell. — AP.

Sheep ship sinks

A ship, abandoned by its crew after it caught fire with 67,000 sheep aboard, is now believed to have sunk off the east coast of Africa, Australian officials said yesterday. — AP.

Romania bans gays

Romania's parliament, defying pleas from European human rights groups, yesterday confirmed homosexuality as a crime punishable by up to five years in jail. — Reuters.

Bikers arrested

Police seized 12 Hell's Angels on suspicion of conspiracy to murder in raids in southern Sweden early yesterday, the latest development in a long battle between authorities and feuding motorcycle gangs in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. — Reuters.

Advertisement for HOME INSURANCE DIRECT. It features a large graphic with the text: £15,000 CONTENTS COVER FROM £5 A MONTH CALL US NOW 0800 300 800. Below the graphic is the logo for CONNECTION INSURANCE and a small text block: "SUN ALLIANCE CONNECTIONS, LINDEN HOUSE, CHART WAY, HORSHAM, SUSSEX BN1 1R. IF YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON OTHER SUN ALLIANCE SERVICES, PLEASE MAKE US AWARE WHEN YOU CALL."

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The end of a strategy
The West's plan to help the Kurds has failed

A WEEK is a long time in Kurdistan. As the faction which turned to Saddam Hussein consolidates its hold, President Clinton explains that Washington's ability to influence events in Iraq is "limited". That is not how he sounded a week ago, when he announced a "course of action" designed to show US resolve. Saddam was being punished for intervening in the Kurdish factional struggle to help the Kurdistan Democratic Party capture Irbil. This time he has kept his menacing forces over the horizon while the KDP completes its domination of northern Iraq by occupying Sulaymaniyah; that seems all right. Mr Clinton's newfound caution is more consonant with reality. He has been juggling with two entirely different sets of variables. One is the danger of showing presidential weakness which Bob Dole will be quick to exploit. There are no prizes for guessing which of these factors counts for more. Bob Dole has now renewed his accusation: he says that the president was too ready last week to issue claims of success following the two Cruise missile strikes and expansion of the no-fly zone in the South. Mr Clinton will be hoping that by now the US public is thoroughly confused by events in Kurdistan, and that he can fudge through the new crisis. Otherwise more missiles will be on their way. But if anyone ever had any illusions that missiles could work magic, after five years when no solution has been found to the unfinished business in Iraq, the last few days will have dashed them. Who exactly are the good Kurds — or the bad ones? A fair proportion of the inhabitants of Sulaymaniyah, out celebrating in the streets yesterday, has welcomed the arrival of the KDP. A smaller proportion has fled towards Iran — yesterday evening some began

heading back on the basis of KDP assurances. The past week has provided a crash course in Kurdish politics. We now understand far better just how fluid these have always been, with both the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) looking at times towards Baghdad. More is understood too about the issue over which the two factions fell out: the unofficial "tax" on sanction-busting trade between Iraq and Turkey, and the new arrangements to be made once the UN's oil-for-food deal comes into effect and reduces the black market flow. The Kurdish people are often criticised for having failed historically to maintain unity; squeezed between the shifting plates of the region's complex geopolitics they may not have had a chance. But it certainly renders futile any attempt to take sides. How then can the Kurds be helped? Not by encouraging them to provide personnel and facilities for attempts to overthrow Saddam which always end in disaster. It is hard to know whether this unremitting record of failure simply reflects the ruthless efficiency of Saddam's oppressive apparatus. The faint-hearted support of Washington's regional allies for any serious effort to overthrow him — echoed in some US quarters — may be a factor. In the meantime, such efforts merely result in scores of "local" agents being sacrificed by the CIA. The only certainty is that the Kurds need humanitarian help on a much larger scale than has been provided. Whatever the military action was designed to achieve has signally failed, adding to Kurdish despair while Turkey and Iran are drawn in further. International diplomacy backed by aid cannot do worse: it might do better. Malcolm Rifkind challenged the EU foreign ministers to suggest a better plan if they had one. The question should be turned around — the plan which he backed has failed.

Rights and responsibilities
Excluding difficult children from school is not the answer

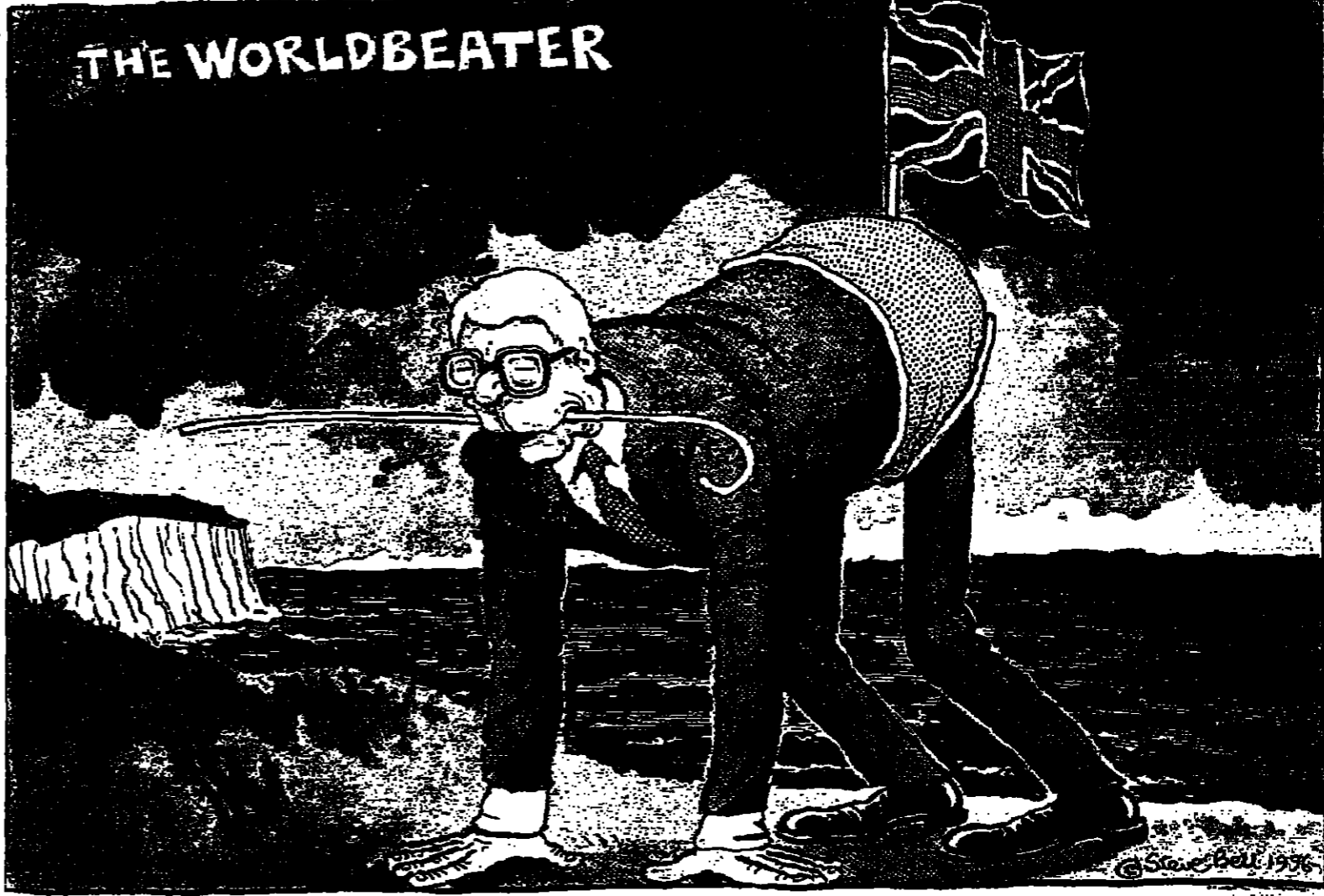
NO-ONE should be surprised by the new alliance between parents and teachers over disruptive children. They have a shared interest in ensuring one disruptive child does not interrupt the education of 30 other pupils. Teachers are on strong ground in the battles which they are now waging against governors and the independent panels which hear appeals from pupils who have been excluded. Schools have already been hit by a triple whammy: larger classes, less support from local education authorities and less money for specialist staff. The growing number of disruptive children with serious emotional problems is a social, rather than an educational, problem which teachers understandably feel is being unfairly and inappropriately dumped on schools. Even J.S. Mill might have endorsed the complaints made by Nottingham parents, who have withdrawn their children from a junior school this week, in protest at the continued presence of a disruptive pupil who had threatened teachers with a baseball bat and bullied other pupils. A compromise devised by the school's governors — a special teacher for the pupil — failed to appease local parents who rightly foresaw that the £14,000 cost would leave the school short of funds for other urgent work. There is, alas, another dimension to the discipline problem in schools. Everyone should be concerned by the threefold increase in exclusions in three years — and fivefold over five.

Over 12,000 children are now being excluded from schools. Even primary schools, as Nottingham illustrates, are now affected. Only a small proportion of secondary pupils who are excluded return to mainstream schools. More worryingly for policy-makers, not all areas have suffered an increase in exclusions. There has been a reduction in about one quarter. The variation is far greater than can be explained by the socio-economic characteristics of the different areas. It suggests some pupils are being unfairly excluded. School league tables could have something to do with this. The result, as researchers have rightly warned, is the emergence of a fifth column of disaffected and excluded pupils with a high potential for crime. The present policy tackles the problem at the wrong end, setting up 250 pupil-referral units and organising home tuition for particularly difficult children. Special units are needed but much more attention needs to be applied earlier in the chain. Prevention is better than cure. There should be clear contracts between parents and schools on their respective responsibilities. Too many parents know about their rights but ignore their responsibilities. Too many are too ready to defend their troublesome children at all costs. Other steps could include more in-house sabbins, cooling-off periods, and networks of neighbourhood education centres. What is crucial is to reduce the size of the fifth column.

The City's love-in with Labour
Serious Money no longer fears a change of government

THE "feel-good factor" is gathering speed almost as if it were being planned from Tory central office. (You think it isn't?) This week we learned that house prices are rising sharply and that wholesale prices are increasing by only 1.2 per cent, the lowest rate for almost 30 years. The Budget tax cuts are working through and will likely be joined by fresh cuts in November. But this bounty is petty beside the £17 billion stimulus due from building society windfalls. This would be Britain's first privatised election boom except that most of the goodies will land after the election. That won't stop people feeling good about the prospect. Yesterday — on cue — the FT share index hit a new peak during the day as it charged towards the psychologically important 4,000 level and the pound rose in sympathy. But hang on. The share index is supposed to be a forward looking indi-

cator reflecting what the guardians of the City's billions think will happen a year or more ahead. Is the index purring because Serious Money favours a Blair victory or do they think that the surge in the feelgood factor, of which the index is a part, will ensure a Tory victory? The truth is that however much it wants a Tory victory personally, the City is unfazed from a financial viewpoint by the prospect of a Labour victory. Some stockbrokers believe a Labour victory will be good for shares because the markets haven't fully cottoned on to the transformation of the party under Mr Blair, not least its espousal of financial orthodoxy. Others argue that since Blair is more likely to join the single currency than Major and if he does it will have to be at a (higher) rate acceptable to France and Germany — so a Labour government could be bullish for sterling. Harold Wilson wouldn't believe it.



Letters to the Editor

Feminists fight back

CHARLOTTE Raven asks: "Do we still need feminism?" (September 9). Yes, we certainly do. A few weeks ago I was waiting to be served in the local butcher's shop in a small Dorset village. The butcher's usual assistant, a young man, was on holiday and he had employed a young woman to operate the till. Enter an elderly gent, "Good morning Simon," he boomed, "all by yourself today?" Incredible, I snarled. "No, he's not by himself, as you can see he has someone else here." The invisible woman smiled and said, "Thank you."

isation are, however, economic class problems, not gender problems. As this week's debate about the minimum wage is showing, low pay is a blight running across the sexes. Moreover, Home Office figures show that the largest group of victims of violence are young males. Suzanne Whight, 37 Eleanor Crescent, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire ST3 3SB.

Raven wants to find a reason for the rise of individualism, she must look elsewhere. Some 17 years of a dominant right-wing ideology might not be a bad place to start. Ann Kramer, 21 Priory Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 3JB.

Our readers ensure that the minister's letter was not the last

THE exchange of letters between Robert Key and Angie Zetter (Hawks and doves, September 7) was fascinating. Robert Key clearly presented the Establishment view — that Indonesia is a sovereign state and it can therefore do more or less what it likes. But a legitimate state, after all, has the right to defend itself, and if that involves invading East Timor and committing genocide with British and American arms, so be it. We'll not interfere, or even raise an eyebrow — after all, Indonesia doesn't have any oil. Robin de la Motte, 11 Dorset Road, London W5 4HU.

Further, the impotence of the opposition to the Indonesian government is exemplified by one fact: the only convictions arising from the Dili cemetery massacre, in which the Indonesian military were seen to best advantage in their socio-political role, have been of demonstrators. Our arms sales to Indonesia give an enormously discouraging signal to its forces of reform. J M Wayland, 13 Elms Avenue, Lytham, Lancs FY8 5PW.

ROBERT KEY declares that there should be no excuses for Suharto's regime yet his letters consist of little else: the regime has preserved the integrity of the state of Indonesia, it has brought the country from poverty to relative affluence, its army has unselfishly forgone numerous opportunities to seize power and is now exercising a benign "socio-political" role which earns it the respect of the pro-democracy movement. Who on earth, I wonder, is then responsible for the "appalling excesses and atrocities" which have been reported to Mr Key? One important way of keeping the armed services sweet in a military dictatorship is by supplying them with the latest in arms technology; to that extent this country, by supplying arms to Indonesia, is helping to cement the relationship between Suharto and his armed services.

And if Robert Key or anyone else would like the guidance of the President of the Court, it is appended to the Opinion: "I cannot insist too much that the incapacity of the Court to go beyond the formal report at which it has arrived cannot in any way be interpreted as a half-open door to recognition of the legality of the threat or use of nuclear armaments." Frederick Starkey, 8 Llys Ffawm, Pantywynn, Mold, Clwyd CH7 5EZ.

On the cards

GUARDIAN, September 9: "Good managers give in when they want to give in, not when other people want them to give in." (Howard Wilkinson, manager of Leeds United).



Landfill tax will bury carriers

HOW many readers realise that, from October 1, the conscientious gardener or DIY enthusiast who hires a skip to get rid of garden waste, subsoil, old timber etc will not only be charged for the hire of the skip but will be charged an additional £30 to £70 in Landfill Tax? The consequence of this is obvious: fly-tipping will reach epidemic proportions.

Only big business is exempted. For example, the operators of the recently privatised mines/opencast sites are exempt if their waste material goes into landfill; but if you or I or the builder of a new house excavates clay out of the ground and sends that to landfill, it will be taxed. The implications for the hundreds of registered waste carriers is likely to be catastrophic. The waste industry operates by the waste carrier purchasing prepaid tickets from landfill-site operators. From October 1, these prepaid tickets will also include the Landfill Tax. The waste carrier will not be reimbursed for the tax until the waste producer pays the carrier's invoice. This can average three to four months. For a medium-sized haulage company with, say, 20 lorries, carrying six to eight loads of 16 tonnes per day, and a Landfill Tax of £7 per tonne, this could mean that the company is bankrolling the Government's tax for up to £½ million. As a company of this size would only have a turnover of, say £2 million, it will find this impossible.

Faulty towers

FURTHER to your correspondence about Sir Norman Foster's proposed skyscraper (Letters, September 10), the City of London has evolved from a medieval street pattern in which even some Victorian buildings are out of scale. Our small island, overpopulated, needs at least a feeling of space. For dozens of streets to be dominated by one building for the sake of one company's profit or one architect's name is unacceptable. Take it to Brasilia or the US. Every great city in the world now has one thing in common: tall buildings. This is London; let's be unique. R M Stringer, 76a Malthouse Road, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 6BQ.

Bosnia's vote of no confidence

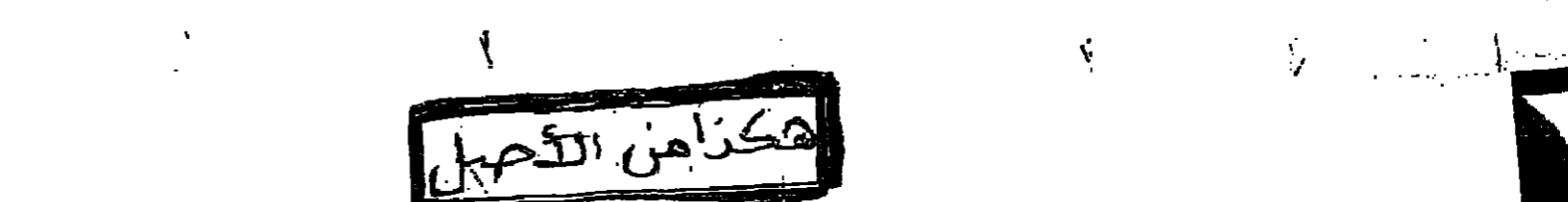
WITH the so-called free elections in Bosnia about to take place (UE funds Serb war criminal, September 5), it is time to ask why they have been made into a farce in the nine months since the Dayton Agreement. The answer is that not one of the more constructive points of Dayton has ever been seriously implemented by the international community. Let me list a few: Almost none of the money promised for reconstruction has ever reached Bosnia. In consequence, the economy remains stagnant, unemployment overwhelming. There has been no extensive rebuilding programme even in Sarajevo.

The election results can only harden present territorial divisions, providing a pseudo-legitimacy. As those divisions remain profoundly unjust, depriving at least a million Bosnians of the right to live in their own homes, this can only enhance the likelihood of a further war. (Prof) Adrian Hastings, Department of Theology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

A Country Diary

THE LONGMYND: A buzzard spirals slowly into the cool grey space above the Wild Moor. It reaches a place high above the plunging void from heather hilltop to valley hollow and then hangs in the wind. Its wings still, and from that stillness the whole landscape begins to revolve until the spiralling world is fixed, with the buzzard at its heart. This marks a hesitancy in the hills. This is a moment — caught in the buzzard's gaze — in the secret ripening of seed and spore; the drawing-in of growth. This is a pause in the circling tide of the season's spin, on the turn from summer into autumn. Down in Godditch, a little valley hidden in the Longmynd's western folds, the stream is piddling. It waits for the great grey clouds sailing above to break against the hill and fill the dry gully with a wider song. Crows are restless in the hanging shaggy branches of a larch. They call a challenge into the steep bracken slopes, daring something to come forward and

break the spell. It happens. From the far end of the valley, roaring and bouncing insanely, a tractor charges up the track. With its engine screaming and, implausibly, an indicator blinking, the furious machine lurches round twists and bends, careens up the steep bank towards the hilltop. After this shattering, mad evocation vanishes into the glooming shoulder of the mountain, the quiet that closes around it is not the same. The crows are flapping with delight. Two pairs of buzzards wind down into Godditch with long echoing mew. A robin emerges with a fiery breast. Shadings thicken in the bracken where the stubborn green is being pulled down into the peaty earth. Something is changing; the deepening of purple in wild plums; the reddening of hawthorn berries; the golden-grey chill in the air. Something has happened since the buzzard released its hold on the spinning world. The tide turns into autumn. PAUL EVANS



Diary
Matthew Norman

THE drive to strengthen the Diary's array of big-name reporters (John Redwood is youth-culture correspondent and Terry Major-Ball covers design) suffers a reverse: Sir Bernard Ingham has refused to become our astrologer. His starring Daily Express colleague Marjorie Orr has revealed how, after the Brighton bombing, Bernie asked her to scour the heavens for signs of any further danger to Lady Thatcher. Clearly, then, he is the Russell Grant of political punditry, and you can imagine our surprise at his reaction to the job offer yesterday. "Good God," he said, "I've been accused of being interested in this stuff, but I'm not." Don't be coy, man, of course you are. "I most certainly am not. I've never had the slightest interest. Yes you have. What's your star sign? ... On the border between Gemini and Cancer... whatever that means." And are you a fan of Mystic Meg? "Who? Who? Mystic Meg? She's that black woman, isn't she? No. Well, she looks black to me. She's very dark." Her hair is dark. "Yes, that's the one. No, I am not remotely interested. I do not dabble in the occult. Goodbye." Bless his bluff old heart, we know we'll win him over in the end.

DISAPPOINTMENT shrouds the most eagerly awaited new novel of the year. Best of Enemies by Eve Pollard and her friends Val Corbett and Joyce Hopikirk, the successor to Splash!, has arrived. It appears to concern a battle between the current and former wife of an MP plucked, credibly enough, from the backbenches into the Cabinet. However, despite the mention of breasts in the prologue, I have found no sex whatsoever in the first four chapters, which I have flicked through quite carefully. There will, therefore, be no reading today, and unless the publisher or one of the authors cares to provide a glossary of all pages on which nooky can be found, it's heading for the bin.

THE relentless efforts of Welsh-language fanatics to tame English continue. A visitor to North Wales reports noticing a sign reading "Restwran Tandwri", with all the necessary circumflexes in place.

SUFFERING an unwelcome attack of cold fever, the News of the World has loaned out its star strikers Mandy Allwood, the eight-baby woman, and her lover Paul Hudson to OK! magazine, for a bit of reinvention. Journalist Sharon Ring paints the pair not as money-grubbing white trash, but as "far from being at the bottom of the social heap... a middle-class, well-spoken, comfortably off couple". The relevance of the couple's social status and speaking voices remains obscure... but who cares? How nice it is, after all, to find that the magazine - home of Gyles Braithwaite's puzzle page - has space for another Ring piece in the same issue.

SECTARIAN differences in Ulster have led a council into a humiliating mistake. Castle-reach Borough Council wrote to Ulsterbus after receiving a complaint that the company was using Irish-language signs on its buses. However, it has now issued an apology, reports the South Belfast Herald & Post, and the council pointed out that signs were, in fact, in French. Castle-reach Mayor Iris Robinson, wife of Ian Paisley's deputy Peter Robinson, has opted for politician's standard defence number 3 (b), and accused her opponents of "distorting the facts".

IN news to make the discovery of the Nazi gold look small fry, Hyderabad-based academic George Harry announces his ownership of what must be history's biggest bearer bond. The bond, guaranteed by the Imperial German Government upon its issue in 1923, has a face value of DM 50 billion (£21 billion). Mr George has had it authenticated, he claims, but as India Today laconically reports, "the German government is questioning its legal status".



A few top tips from Norma and Cherie

Commentary Catherine Bennett

CHEESE, as Sandy Carr writes in her lyrical pocket guide to coagulated milk, is all things to all men. "It can be robust or delicate," she notes, "strong or soothing, an abundant meal in itself, or a rare and delicate morsel to be savoured, cosseted, and treated with the reverence afforded all great miracles of art or nature."

It goes without saying that cheese should not be frozen. But Carr says it anyway: "Never put cheese in the freezer. It is one sure way of destroying its flavour and texture irretrievably." Until last weekend, it seemed that this simple precept - never put cheese in the freezer - would remain forever unchallenged, a steadfast beacon in this uncertain world. Then Norma Major gave one of her rare interviews, speaking with all the authority of a career housewife. "Oh yes," she insisted, "cheese freezes wonderfully. If you have any grotty bits left, you grate them and put them in a box in the freezer."

Those women who have never maintained a cheese-freezing box could only reflect on the mountains of unpromising cheese casually jettisoned over the years. It was a moment charged with a sense of waste, of loss, even of shame. Nor was cheese-paring the only chastening top tip to emerge from this brief interview. "On my own, I will use the same tea-bag more than once," Ms Major revealed. Here again, her teaching is revolutionary. In the 1970s it was not unusual for girls to spend a double-domestic-science lesson learning the correct brewing of tea, from pot-warming, to measuring the leaves, to tray-setting technique. But Ms Major's authority cannot be in doubt. She, herself, once worked as a domestic-science teacher, before willingly sacrificing herself to husband and family. "Domestic life suits me," she says. In her current role as the Tory Party's secret weapon, she is tormented by one urgent desire: to get home where "there are some cupboards that need cleaning".

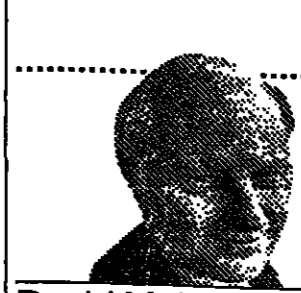
It has long been said that Norma Major is an undervalued ornament to the Tory party. "In reality she is an intelligent, humorous, cultivated person," the commentator Edward Pearce claimed recently. "Certainly Norma has none of that commanding, iridescent, hard-surfaced quality which marks the career-woman's wife." Now that Norma has offered a sample of her charms, career women clearly have some hard thinking to do. If a housewife with a cupboard-clearing habit is now considered, as the Times reported, "a huge electoral asset", working women must accept that they have got their priorities all wrong. Instead of earning a living, thereby acquiring qualities which so alarm the iridescent Pearce, they should perfect the arts of the scullion, procreate, and embrace a lifetime of dependency.

This toppest of tips was confirmed by Cherie Booth's decision to guest-edit Prima, a magazine whose obsession with domestic chores makes it about as appealing to most "career women" as Angler's Mail, Railway Modeller, and Cage And Aviary Birds. Prima is a magazine for women who have time not only to hatch-bake but to embroider childlike samplers ("simply send off for our embroidery kit"), to knit horrible throws ("to snuggle under while you're watching TV") and to deface the walls and furniture with stencilled flowers ("simply stamp the design on to a piece of paper. Then repeat...").

In her editorial, Booth describes herself as a "keen knitter", who has always been "a fan of Prima". As this cannot possibly be a cynical, barefaced lie, it suggests that hard-surfaced career women have been typically misguided in admiring Booth for her intelligence, application and success; quite wrong to consider her the most impressive aspect of Tony Blair.

For if Booth had wanted to identify herself with working women, she could have guest-edited any number of women's magazines which presuppose a productive life outside, as well as inside, the home. Instead, she has submerged herself in the world of handy hints, allowed herself to be presented as "mum to three school-age kids", and participated in a question-and-answer session with primas readers, featuring such poses as "How old are your children?", "Do you like gardening?", and "Why have you retained your maiden name?" The one, vaguely political question, "would you try to persuade your husband to help working mothers?", elicits the dotting response: "As a working father, Tony knows about these things." Top tip: When you're asked something you don't want to answer, simply change the subject.

Take a club to silence the politicians



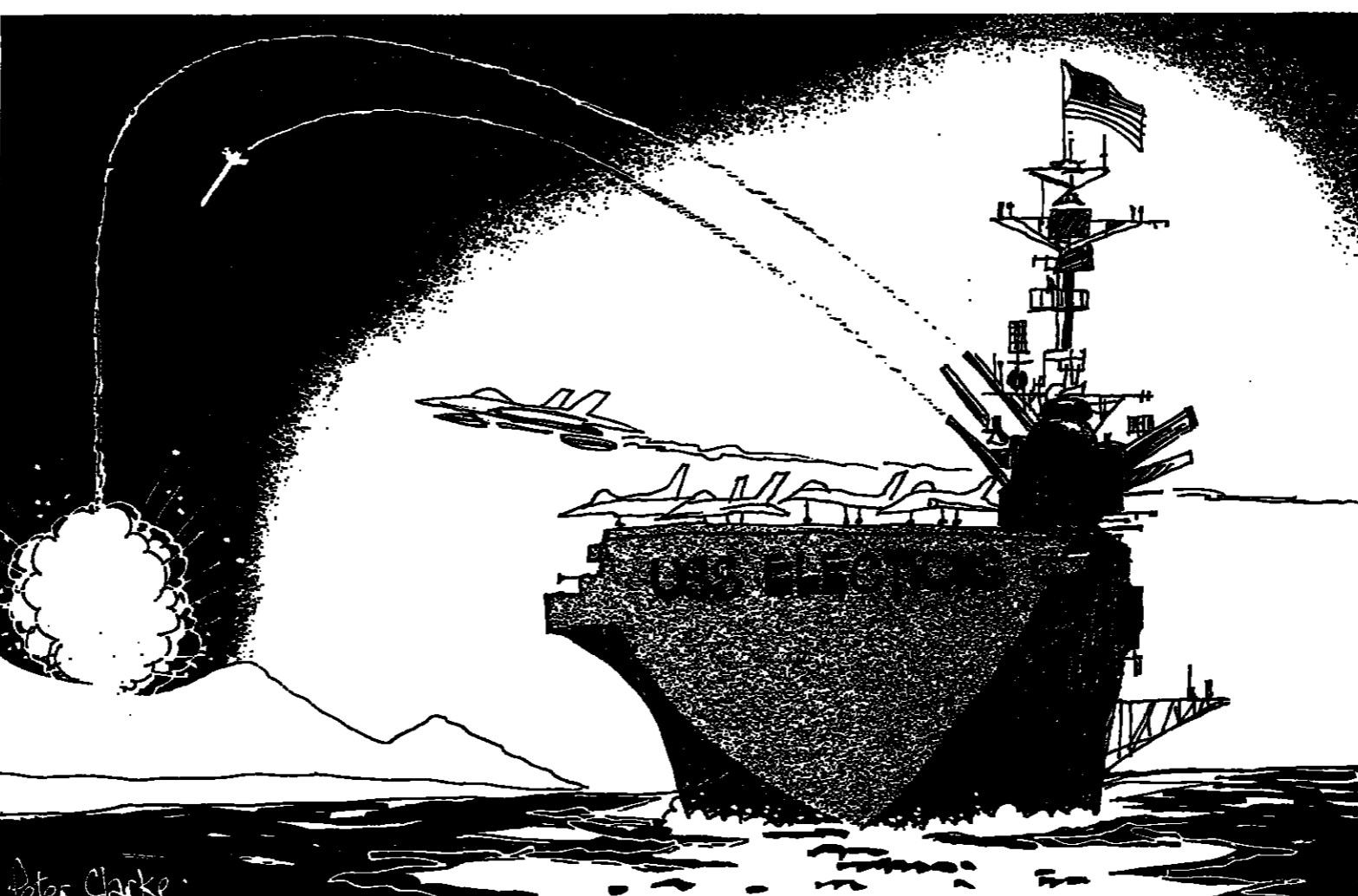
David McKie

"HIS is a very clubbable person," one friend explained as the Humphrey Carpenter biography exploded over his head last weekend. Clubbable in this context meaning friendly, gregarious, easy to talk and, but people like that ecclesiastical Mouth of the Ouse the Archdeacon of York appear to find Lord Runcie "clubbable" in a less affectionate sense. To them, he's a hopelessly muddled permissive liberal whom they'd constantly like to club.

Why should "club" in one sense invoke amiable comradeship, and yet in another, imply assault with a bludgeon? The dictionary offers little to help us. But one suggestion, raised in an intriguing paper by a Wiltshire local historian, Ken Watts, is that it may have something to do with a movement which briefly flourished during the Civil War known as the Clubmen. Their advertised purpose was to band - or as we say now, to club - together to make themselves such a general nuisance that King and Parliament would settle their differences and leave the country in peace. And why were they known as Clubmen? Because they carried clubs.

Their proclamations claimed neutrality. They petitioned both King and Parliament for an immediate ceasefire and for soldiers who wished to do so to be allowed to go home. Their most popular slogan was equally even-handed: "If you offer to plunder our cattle," they promised, "be assured we will give you battle." The farmers and yeomen who made up their ranks, with a sprinkling of gentry and clergy providing much of the leadership, were suffering great deprivations. Extortionate demands had been made by those in authority for money, provisions and billets for soldiers. And alongside official kidnapping and plundering, there was pillaging by rank and file soldiers who had little but pillage to live on.

In some counties the logic of that set them against the King, and in others against the Parliament. In Somerset and Gloucestershire the Clubmen tended to favour Parliament, because people here had suffered so much at the hands of Royalist commanders like the brutal and drunken Goring. (In May 1645, according to Ken Watts's paper, the Clubmen in the West Country, Goring fiercely engaged one of his own columns for two hours before appreciating his mistake, which he then laconically described as "the most fantastical accident since war began".) Having solemnly promised that, if they paid the contributions he demanded, these counties would no longer be plundered, Goring took their money and plundered their towns and ever in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset, however, which had not had to cope with Goring, the Clubmen tended to favour the King against Parliament.



Dangerous games

Martin Woollacott argues that although Pax America may be wearing a bit threadbare worldwide, the US has to act decisively over the Kurds - regardless of the November election

ONCE events, or tanks, start moving in the Middle East, it takes more than a few months for the forces of the Kurdish Democratic Party, the panicky wanderings of refugees in that area, the continuing preparations for a Turkish zone of control in the north - all these show that the consequences of Saddam's intervention in Kurdistan are still working themselves out in unpredictable and dangerous ways.

or is it, as is more likely, part of the deal with Saddam that the Iraqi National Congress be drummed out of the country, or even that they be captured and handed over? A hundred DNC people, after all, may already have died, executed by Saddam's men on the first day in Arbil, whether with or without KDP connivance is not clear. Others fear for their lives.

That, possibly, the KDP would start talks, very much on their terms, with the PUK, and that Provide Comfort would formally stay in being. The KDP's own justification for what it has done is almost certainly that a solution to the problem of surviving until Saddam goes had to be found. They must imagine, at least, that they can keep him at arms length. But it would be difficult to present such an outcome as anything but a defeat, only slightly qualified, for American policy.

until after Americans vote has come to grief most obviously in Iraq, but is also evident in Bosnia, Ireland, Russia and recently in Israel and the West Bank. After the Netanyahu victory in Israel, the overriding US objective seems to have been to patch up things sufficiently to get by until November. The recent meeting of Netanyahu and Arafat solves nothing, as the Israeli leader's wriggling over the Hebron issue during his Washington trip proves. The two men may agree, under American pressure, that they will try to avoid trouble until after the American election, but that only postpones inevitable clashes. In Kurdistan, however, the American government is faced with a situation that demands immediate action, decisions needed now to preserve, as far as possible, a western influence over the fate of the Kurds and the future of Iraq, as part of a general influence in the region.

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Emile Noël

Europe beyond strife

IN THE great adventure of the integration of Europe, which started with the clarion call of Robert Schuman in 1950, Emile Noël had something of the role which James Madison had in the foundation of the American Republic nearly two centuries before.

Noël, who has died aged 73, was in appearance shy, ascetic, ironic, with a gentle sense of humour. He had not only the capacity to work regularly through the night, but also the ability, as Keynes once said of Lloyd George, "to watch the company with six or seven senses not available to ordinary men, judging character, motive and sub-conscious impulse, perceiving what each was thinking and even what each was going to say next, and compounding with telepathic instinct the argument or appeal best suited to the vanity or weakness or self-interest of his immediate auditor." In the case of Lloyd George this ability went into tub thumping persuasion; in the case of Emile, always the discreet adviser, into whispered suggestions to the chairman of the meeting and impeccable drafting.

It was in 1972, 14 years after he had become Secretary General, the top civil servant of the European Commission, that I first came across his drafting skills. The United Kingdom was to join, on January 1, 1973, the then European Community, and in Oc-

tober 1972 President Pompidou had called a meeting in Paris of the heads of government of the six member countries and the acceding ones. I found myself as a member of the British team which had negotiated our entry, in a vigorous discussion among officials about the prospect for the forthcoming world trade negotiations. The French were against, we were for. An impasse loomed. Then I became conscious of a quietly spoken, diffident figure at the back of the room. He modestly suggested a French text which bridged the gap with crystalline clarity and elegant impartiality. His text was accepted with the nearest approach a bureaucratic gathering can get to applause.

Encouraged by this, I approached him later in the evening on a subject which was causing me some concern. The great of the conference had approved a text which committed them, and us, to "la participation des travailleurs dans la marche des entreprises" — in plain English, "worker participation in the running of firms".

This seemed to me to be likely to cause mayhem on the Conservative benches, if read out in the House of Commons. So I sought Emile's advice. He raised his arms, with that gesture of cynical but constructive resignation I was later to know so well. Sometimes clarity in a text



Emile Noël... working behind the scenes to steer Europe towards ever closer union. PHOTOGRAPH: KENNETH SAUNDERS

was all important. Sometimes a written text could mean several things. Much depended, he said, on the translation.

His English, to the casual observer, left much to be desired. His delivery was hesitant, his accent marked. But he had a remarkable grasp of the subtleties of the English language. Encouraged, I left the conference with the belief, which the British to this day have not grasped, that the day of the untrammelled nation state in Europe was over and that more could be done for the common good by action which went beyond talk between national governments. To this belief Emile devoted his life and his formidable talents.

Some have claimed that he was a supreme manipulator. "This was not correct in the sense that he was manipulating the process of European government for personal

power or French interests or the Commission president of the day. Beyond ensuring the smooth running of the machine, he saw his role as the guardian of the supranational element of the European construction.

On all the major occasions in the development of the Union, the merger of the then three separate communities in 1965, the negotiations for the entry of the new member states, the British budgetary question and the Single Act of 1986 he was at work behind the scenes to ensure that Europe did not drown in a welter of competing national interests but stayed steadily on course towards an ever closer union.

No better evidence of his talents can be found than the contrast between the Commission's successful drafting of the Single European Act and its floundering

in the drafting of the Treaty of Maastricht.

His last two years under Jacques Delors, who took over the commission presidency in 1985, were not happy. An autocratic Delors was intent on asserting his authority over what he saw as the development of the state in an over-night subject. At one of his meetings he angrily told Emile: "Moi je suis le patron, pas vous." Emile remained as ever, impassive, but retired soon afterwards.

Emile Noël will be remembered, not as one of the great servants of the state in the tradition of Colbert, but as the first great servant of a uniting Europe. He would have wished for no other epitaph.

Sir Roy Denman

Emile Noël, international civil servant, born August 17, 1922; died August 24, 1996 aged 73

Ruggiero Mastroianni Master of the cutting room

ONE OF the greatest film editors of Italian cinema, Ruggiero Mastroianni, who was five years younger than his famous actor brother Marcello, has died of a stroke at the age of 66. He collapsed only shortly before he was in Rome where he was cutting Francesco Rosi's *La Tragedia* (The Truce) based on a novel by Primo Levi.

Rosi called Ruggiero "a point of reference for all of us". Among the many memorable films edited by Mastroianni were Federico Fellini's *8½* and Luchino Visconti's *Death in Venice*. But the achievement for which he is perhaps best known is Rosi's semi-documentary account of the life of the Sicilian bandit, Salvo Lima (1961). Although the editing was credited to Mario Serandrei, Ruggiero reportedly cut it in 72 hours, even though this was on one of the most complex films since *Città e Kané*. Ruggiero, characteristically, claimed no credit for this, saying that Rosi knew exactly how he wanted the film edited.

Indeed, he never claimed a creative role for the film editor. "You're a bit like a whore," he once said, "you have to do what you are asked. At the most you can help a director to clarify a scene, especially when it seems over long." Mario Monicelli, another director with whom he worked frequently, said: "Ruggiero was a great professional but you worked with him as a friend and he always knew instinctively whether your ideas would be communicated to the audience."

Although Ruggiero was born in Turin, he and Marcello belonged to a poor Roman working class family. Their father was a carpenter in bad health and the boys had to leave school early to become breadwinners. After the war both got casual jobs in the film industry, Marcello as a clerk, Ruggiero in a studio lab. Marcello was lucky and became an actor, thanks to Visconti.

Ruggiero ended up in the cutting rooms engaged in the gruelling work that in those days was done almost exclusively by women.

Though he worked his way up with many editors, he admitted that he learned most from Mario Serandrei who edited all of Visconti's early films, graduating as Serandrei's assistant on *Le Notti Bianche*, an unusual Visconti film in that it was shot in chronological sequence. It was a tough job. He had to edit several films at the same time, allocating their "assistant" to do part of the work for them when necessary. Hence Ruggiero's work on *Salvatore Giuliano*. He was to edit all Visconti's films after the death of Serandrei, including *The Damned* and *The Leopard*.

Ruggiero said that the main problem for an editor in the Italian cinema was that often directors did not work from tight shooting scripts, a habit left over from the days of neorealism improvisation in the 1940s.

Ruggiero's company, how-ever, was not successful. "The problem didn't exist. He usually invented the dialogue

in the cutting rooms anyway and dubbed the actors without worrying too much about synchronicity. I always felt very relaxed working with Ruggiero because the cutting of his films was a new creative act."

Ruggiero Mastroianni was a quiet and modest person, with a reputation in the business for his quietness. He was only pushed into the limelight when the director Luigi Magni persuaded him to play Marcello's brother in an historical spoof based on the Punic War expedition of the Roman general Scipio Africanus. The film, *Scipione detto l'Africano* (1971), was not a great success but Marcello



Mastroianni... great editor

and Ruggiero enjoyed themselves enormously as they had an excuse to be together for a long period.

The two brothers were always close friends and in moments of crisis in Marcello's life, such as when he suffered over the end of his relationship with Edda Dell'Orto, it was to his brother he turned for moral comfort.

John Francis Lane

Ruggiero Mastroianni, film editor, born November 7, 1929; died September 9, 1996

Death Notices

- CLISSO**, John Michael, suddenly on Sunday 8th September, in Ottawa, aged 54. Son of Margaret and the late John Clisso. Married to Margaret. Survived by wife, two sons and four grandsons. Burial in Ottawa. Donations to National Cancer Society, St. John's Hospital, St. Michael's, St. Joseph's and St. Luke's. Interment at St. Michael's. Tel: 011 453 3338 or 011 453 3777.
- HARRISON**, Michael John Joseph, aged 34, died on Sunday 8th September 1996. Loving husband of Deborah and the devoted father of two children, David and Daniel. The much loved son of Peter and Margaret and the loving brother of Paul and Stephen. Burial in St. Michael's. Donations to National Cancer Society, St. John's Hospital, St. Michael's, St. Joseph's and St. Luke's. Interment at St. Michael's. Tel: 011 453 3338 or 011 453 3777.
- HARRISON**, on 8th September, Sarah Marie, aged 56, died on Sunday 8th September 1996. Loving wife of John and the devoted mother of three children, David, Andrew and Alison. Burial in St. Michael's. Donations to National Cancer Society, St. John's Hospital, St. Michael's, St. Joseph's and St. Luke's. Interment at St. Michael's. Tel: 011 453 3338 or 011 453 3777.
- WOOD**, Dr David Walter, (Mathematics Dept, Nottingham University 1960-1962). On 7th September 1996, aged 63, died in Edinburgh. He was buried in Edinburgh on 9th September 1996. He will be missed by all who knew him. He was a very kind man and a very good friend. He will be very missed by the whole family and all his friends. Burial in Edinburgh. Donations to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Tel: 011 453 3338 or 011 453 3777.

Bill Monroe

Founding father with the bluegrass blueprint

FEW musicians have invented a musical form, and fewer still have had it acknowledged during their lifetime. Yet Bill Monroe, who has died aged 64, long and proudly bore the title "father of bluegrass music." It was the sort of self-promoting legend you might expect to find inlaid in mother-of-pearl on a guitar neck or screaming from a show-poster, but it was true, or at any rate truer than most such claims.

Monroe's achievement was to shape an entirely new music from the stringband and harmony-singing traditions of the white southeastern United States. Not singlehandedly, for he was indebted to the brilliant, innovative banjoist Earl Scruggs and other members of his early bands. But it's a matter of record, in both senses, that he conceived the sound of bluegrass — the swirling polyphony of banjo, mandolin, guitar and fiddle, the layered harmonies topped by a piercing high tenor — and found musicians to share his dream, and pursued it for 60 years.

The youngest of eight children from a Kentucky farming family, he was a withdrawn boy who took refuge in music, playing mandolin with a local black guitarist, Arnold Schultz, or guitar with his fiddling Uncle Pen Vandiver, whom he would immortalise in his composition *Uncle Pen*. At 16 he moved north, taking jobs in Detroit and Chicago. He began playing with his older brother Charlie and soon their lissom mandolin-guitar duets were heard on small stations around Chicago.

By the mid-1930s they were building a reputation on station WBT in Charlotte, North Carolina, sponsored by Crazy Water Crystals, a laxa-



Bill Monroe... 60 years in pursuit of his own musical genre

tive product. WBT was an academy of early country music performers and its graduates were routinely signed up by RCA Victor's Bluebird record label. The Monroe Brothers had an immediate hit in 1938 with their religious wake-up call *What Would You Give in Exchange for Your Soul?* and went on to make several dozen fast and intense records of sacred numbers and traditional songs like *On the Banks of the Ohio*. "I'd still rather listen to Bill and Charlie Monroe than any current record," Bob Dylan has said. "That's what America's all about to me."

The brothers' relationship was never easy and they parted in 1938. Bill formed the first of his lineups to be named

the Blue Grass Boys (he always insisted on the spelling) and in 1939 won a place on the Grand Ole Opry, the revue of stringbands, yodellers and square-dancers broadcast every week from WSM in Nashville and in those days country music's most glittering shop-window. Fifty-five years later he was still there, the grand old man of the Grand Ole Opry.

Monroe's early 1940s records are a fascinating sheaf of blueprints. Later on he would disapprove of musical fusions, but bluegrass was born out of experiments, as he patched together hillbilly blues, boogie and western swing. "The beat in my music," he said, "started when I ran across *Minkster Blues*" — composed

by an earlier father-figure of country music, the "blue yodeller" Jimmie Rodgers.

In 1949 he assembled the first bluegrass lineup, with Scruggs, singer-guitarist Lester Flatt, fiddler Chubby Wise and bassist Howard Watts. Over the next year they recorded for the Columbia label such core songs of the bluegrass repertoire as *Mother's Only Sleeping*, *Molly and Tenbrooks* and *Blue Moon of Kentucky*, which fizzed up again a few years later in the ferment of rock 'n' roll, when Elvis Presley reconstructed it on his first recording. These performances set the style both for the Blue Grass Boys and for many of the genre's bands ever after. Monroe singing either solo or in a skyrapping tenor over Flatt's softer-edged lead, while Scruggs and Wise impelled and accentuated the rhythm with a drive that was new to country music.

In 1948 Flatt and Scruggs left to form their own band, a decision Monroe never took issue with for years he refused to acknowledge Scruggs's existence. Then he changed record labels, in a move characteristic of his sense of propriety. Columbia had signed the Stanley Brothers, whom he considered his own. He was the first abrupt, and sometimes unwise, career decision. Yet not long afterwards he had Carter Stanley singing with him, just one in the battalion of bluegrass musicians who have served in the ranks of the Blue Grass Boys.

Monroe's early albums include primers of bluegrass practice like *Knee Deep in Bluegrass*, *I Saw the Light* (both 1958) and *Bluegrass Instrumentals* (1968). Improved recording techniques revealed more clearly his personal contri-

butions to the bluegrass sound. In his mandolin playing he underscored his flexible, blues-derived timing and accent with unremitting drive, as in instrumental showpieces like *Roughie*, and *Roanoke*, while his singing displays the ringing head-tons, bluesy flatterings and shrill yodelling that have become the basic English of the bluegrass language.

In the 1960s he began to employ younger, non-southern college-educated musicians with a background of folk-such

as banjoist Bill Keith, singer-guitarist Peter Rowan and fiddler Richard Greene. Encouraged by their respectful enthusiasm and by Ralph Rinzler, a folklorist who became his manager, Monroe began to woo northern campus audiences. Rinzler used Monroe's album notes to create an academically respectable history of bluegrass, tracing its roots in traditional Anglo-Saxon music and disentangling them from the murky undergrowth of "commercial" country music to the folk.

College audiences revived bluegrass in the 1960s and 1970s, as the short-haired math graduates who weren't comfortable at Woodstock or the Fillmore West. Docked soberly to bluegrass festivals, espe-

'I'd still rather listen to Bill and Charlie Monroe than any current record' — Bob Dylan

cially Monroe's own annual gathering at Bean Blossom, Indiana. He visited Britain in 1965, and when he returned 10 years later, some friends and I arranged a London concert for him. He was known to be off-hand about money. A journalist once described him loading up for a tour: "Suddenly he straightened up, pushed back his hat and scratched his head. 'Dog my cats' he drawled. 'I done forgot something... son, run down to the bank and get me a couple o' bags o' money.' And nobody laughed but me."

I duly paid Bill with an envelope full of fivers. He flexed me with his magisterial gaze, blue and severe as the Appalachian mountains, and said, "Have you counted it?" Without glancing at it again he put it in a pocket and asked where the band could get breakfast.

He was elected into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1970, won a National Heritage Fellowship Award in 1982, a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Recording in 1989 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Sciences in 1993. Serene in his position as bluegrass's head man, he realised he could afford to be generous to old rivals, and there were poignant reunions with Earl Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, Mac Wiseman and other veterans of the early campaigning days.

"To start with," Bill once said, "I thought I'd touch the country people — the farm people — and that would be as far as it would ever go. But now bluegrass means a lot to people all over the world. And I'm proud of it."

Tony Russell

William Smith Monroe, bluegrass musician, born September 13, 1911; died September 9 1996

Jackdaw



Seuss songs

IF A packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, And the bus is interrupted by a very fast resort, And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report! If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, And the double-clicking icons put your window in the trash, And your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash, Then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna crash! If the label on your cable on the gable at your house, Says the network is connected to the

Whispers

LIKE Od, the secret police numbered the hairs on their victims' heads. The interrogators wrote down

Mandelstam's eye colour — "hazel" — and noted that his "chest and abdomen (were) covered with hair," that he was the "son of a merchant," and that he was a "writer," whose "narrow speciality" was being a "poet." When he reached eastern Siberia in October 1938, where he wrote his brother a last letter, he was, in his own words, "emasculated in the extreme... thin, almost unrecognisable." By December, "the Poet," as fellow prisoners called him, was half mad and unable to raise his head from his board bed. When he died in late December, the orderlies in the camp hospital "fastened a wooden board with his number to one leg, tossed the corpse in a cart together with others, took them out of the compound and threw them into a common grave." The Magden doctors let him die but upon his death conducted a punctilious post-mortem, not forgetting to fingerprint him. One might think that an exterminatory system would take steps to obliterate traces of its victims and its crimes. On the contrary, the more

genocidal the regime, it seems, the more fastidious its record keeping. The doctors who refused to treat the dying but finger-printed their corpses were certainly dead to all moral reflection, and the language of the files added its own moral anesthetic. Only in a rare moment of candor was Mandelstam's arrest file marked "Terror." Most of the time the chosen phrase for torture was "special methods" or "active investigation."

The secrets of the Stalinst state's administrative memory are now slowly coming to light. Michael Ignatieff (New York Review of Books) reviews Peter Magden's collection of prison files on the poet Oleg Mandelstam, which he found and published. Mandelstam was arrested in May 1938 and died in December.

Crawlies

THE ONE advantage of the heat is that it kills off the "crawlies." At the end of May all insect life tries desperately to get out of the frying sun and into the house.

Around that time my wife was putting on a shirt in the bedroom of our new house, and I said, "Don't move!" There was a large scorpion on her back. She took the shirt off and we killed it, but it was a close thing. People are known to turn blue with the pain of the scorpion stings, although death is rare. Worse than scorpions, at least psychologically, are camel spiders. Possibly the most revolting things on earth, they grow to a vast size — real monsters, bigger than your hand — and they are hairy, have fangs and eat flesh. They are called camel spiders because they eat into camels' flesh in the desert to bury their eggs. Truck drivers sleeping under lorries have woken to find their noses being eaten away by these vile things. They inject an anaesthetic so that the loss of part of your face is painless, and infection is rare as they also inject a form of antibiotic. I was told by a huge, burly, rugby-playing foreman in Al Ain that he was afraid of nothing in the world apart from camel spiders.

Realising this, the construction workers on his site used to stamp on the floor of the Fortakabin where they had their tea break because a large family of spiders lived underneath. They found it hilarious to see this giant running for his life as the hand-sized monsters jumped at him as he approached the cabin. Eventually he took to wielding a cricket bat, which he used to splat them as they leapt towards him.

It is not nice to find camel spiders in the house. They are fast and difficult to squash with a shoe, the usual weapon for dealing with scorpions. We decided to move out of our last house on a date plantation when, after killing half a dozen of them, we were told by several reliable sources that the spiders enjoyed carrying scorpions on their backs before eating them. This apparently was a common sight. The thought of waking in the night to see a hand-sized, hairy, leaping, face-eating, fanged monster carrying a poisonous scorpion on its back like a packed lunch was just too much. We were out of the date plantation in a week.

Justin Scholtes writing in *Esquire* on the perils of life in the Middle East. Anyone planning a holiday there, take note and arm yourself with a bat.

No mates

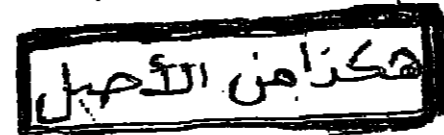
1. DRUM on every available surface.
2. Publicity investigate just how slowly you can make a "croaking" noise.

3. Decline to be seated at a restaurant, and simply eat their complimentary mints by the cash register.
4. Push all the flat Lego pieces together tightly.
5. Leave your turn signal on for 50 miles.
6. Inform others that they exist only in your imagination.
7. Deliberately hum songs that will remain lodged in co-workers' brains.
8. Lie obviously about trivial things such as the time of day.
9. Change your name to John.
10. Sling slings at the great glory of being first in the phone book. Claim it's a Hawaiian name, and demand that people pronounce each A.
11. Sing along at the opera.
How to make enemies of everyone, discovered on the *Esquire* "Devilants" on the internet by Bill Spring.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Fenchurch Road, London EC3R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

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Morgan Grenfell crisis gather more victims
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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Morgan Grenfell crisis gathers more victims

Best Endeavour... The firm is still small, but its staff are pinning their hopes on outside investors helping it to the big time
PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH



Small firms are punished

Paul Murphy and Richard Miles

YOUNG companies planning to raise capital in the City and eventually join the stock market have emerged as unwitting victims of the Morgan Grenfell affair, with fund managers backing away from commitments to junior firms. In the wake of the disastrous foray of Morgan's suspended investment manager, Peter Young, into unquoted stocks, one stockbroker who specialises in smaller companies, said: "It is nothing short of a crisis at the seed-capital end of the market. Dozens of small companies with good management and bright ideas are having to review their financing plans. Suddenly it is a case of 'small is ugly'."



institutions who were following the German-owned investment bank into the deal have now backed away. "I am no different from my colleagues at other asset management houses," one involved fund manager confessed. "We already have the compliance department combing through our portfolios and the thought of taking up further exposure to unquoted or Otef-listed (the lightly regulated matched bargain market) stock is abhorrent." Brokers have been quick to

Endeavour hopes to defy trend against newcomers

DAVID Thomson, head of corporate finance at blue-chip merchant bank Grenfell before it was taken over by Midland Bank a decade ago, is not a man to be fazed by a common-or-garden City scandal, writes Paul Murphy.

In semi-retirement, he is backing a new software sales and distribution firm, Endeavour Technologies, and in his capacity as non-executive chairman he has decided to press ahead with plans to raise money in the Square Mile — despite the climate being queered by the Morgan Gren-

fell affair. The antics of Morgan's suspended fund manager, Peter Young, have given some onlookers the sense that all small companies seeking to break on to the stock market are just too high-risk to warrant investment. But over the next few weeks, a handful of institutions and other "professional" investors will be asked to pump around £300,000 — small beer by City standards — into Endeavour.

"Clearly, the Morgan saga has not helped," Mr Thomson says. "My main worry is that the regulatory and legislative process will simply become even more tortuous. The costs of raising money in the City will rise — and to the benefit of no one."

British standard aims to halt late payment of debts

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

THE Government and industry yesterday joined forces to launch a new code on the late payment of debts. Their effort to tackle one of the biggest blights to small firms aims to avoid tough new laws, favoured by Labour, which would give firms a right to interest on late payments.

terms of the contract were different. Small firms minister Richard Page said the DTI would join the Treasury in being the first two departments to adopt the new standard. "The Government recognises that late payment is a serious problem for small businesses and is committed to tackling it," he said.

Kleinwort's second bite at Kepit

Richard Miles

THE month-long battle for control of Kepit, the ailing European privatisation investment trust, took an unexpected turn yesterday when incumbent manager Kleinwort Benson was given a second chance to run it.

tion, the 77,000 shareholders may cash in their shares and warrants and transfer to a new European privatisation unit trust run by Kleinwort Benson. It would be worth £280 million European & General unit trust.

agers, including Kleinwort Benson, M&G and Guinness Flight. Disgraced managers, Flemings and Morgan Grenfell, also tabled proposals.

up costs with M&G. Ben Sidons, chairman of M&G Kleinwort Benson Investment Funds, said: "We always hoped that the board would respect the fact that investors who choose to stay in the trust would be allowed to follow the theme of European privatisation, especially when the story is coming right."

Row after National Express makes fast £400,000 profit

Ian King

NATIONAL Express, the bus and coach operator, ran into a political row yesterday when it said its new train division, set up in April, was already performing above expectations.

bid for the franchises of more train operators — companies where we believe the terms and potential for good returns are attractive."

Foreign investors drive Olivetti share price inexorably lower

David Gow

LONDON investors yesterday led a further wave of selling of stocks in Olivetti, the troubled Italian computers and office equipment group, driving the share price down a further 6 per cent to a new record low as a worried premier, Romano Prodi, stepped in.

their £190 million sea of red ink for the first half of this year, but these results were immediately questioned by its chief operating officer, Renzo Francesconi, who resigned a day after Mr De Benedetti stepped down.

New Hampshire Names quit challenge to Lloyd's rescue

Pauline Springett

LOYD'S of London last night appeared to be facing crumbling opposition to its £3.2 billion rescue deal after regulators in New Hampshire decided to abandon a legal challenge to the settlement.

settlement offer, although not every US state signed up. A Lloyd's spokesman said last night that, including New Hampshire, 40 states have agreed to end hostilities. Two states have no resident Names and so were not involved at all, and six — Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee — are still planning to fight Lloyd's in the courts.

There's nothing you can bank on



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE prospect of the mighty Deutsche Bank losing its valuable "triple A" credit rating as a result of the hole in three Morgan Grenfell investment funds is a useful reminder of the risks involved in the asset management industry.

time the regulators more fully recognised the possibility of systemic problems. Deutsche Bank will not always be in the wings.

Conglomerate cull

TOMORROW BTR will reveal its strategy for making sense of the mess of businesses inherited from the acquisition spree of the past two decades. And, as its fellow 1980s star, Hanson, tears itself apart with the de-merger of tobacco, chemicals and energy, the era of the conglomerate is clearly over.

Yet it remains the case that most large companies are conglomerates, and will continue to be so even if not generally described as such. Yesterday saw Williams Holdings, one which does fall into the category officially known as "diversified industrials", report slightly improved figures and every intention of retaining a number of separate businesses.

Williams is a happy medium, between the monolithic empire of disparate activities and the totally focused operation. It has nodded in the direction of focus, most recently by selling its electronics division to management. But it will continue to acquire in the remaining areas of security equipment, fire protection and building materials.

Working well

AT THE TUC this week trade unions will argue what their faith in Europe has been justified. Several of the UK's largest companies are rushing to confer new rights of consultation on their employees in the shape of European works councils.

But the dash to comply with the EU directive, and to ignore the opt-out negotiated so painfully by John Major, is an exercise in corporate common sense, not weakness. By setting up councils now, ahead of the directive's formal implementation on September 8, companies can frame the rules flexibly.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1.8850	France 7.70	Italy 2.800	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.91	Germany 2.2825	Japan 0.5420	S Africa 8.7375
Belgium 46.55	Greece 363.50	Netherlands 2.5395	Spain 160.60
Canada 2.0845	Hong Kong 11.73	New Zealand 2.18	Sweden 100.23
Cyprus 0.6750	India 55.81	Norway 9.7530	Switzerland 1.855
Denmark 6.7650	Ireland 0.9350	Portugal 232.90	Turkey 132.025
Finland 6.9970	Israel 4.91	Saudi Arabia 5.81	USA 1.5220

Sourced by Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Emily Sheffield

WPP boss to collect first tranche of £25m fortune labelled 'greed on a truly heroic scale' Sorrell picks up £2.8m bonus

Tony May

MARTIN Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, the biggest advertising group in the world, will today qualify for a £2.8 million share bonus. He is now half way towards collecting a £25 million fortune in the history of corporate Britain — under a controversial share incentive scheme.

Despite accusations that the scheme was "greed on a truly heroic scale", shareholders agreed in June last year that if Mr Sorrell was prepared to put £2 million into the scheme he would be rewarded with £25 million of "free shares".

Barring a dramatic collapse in the share price, today will be the 60th day on which the

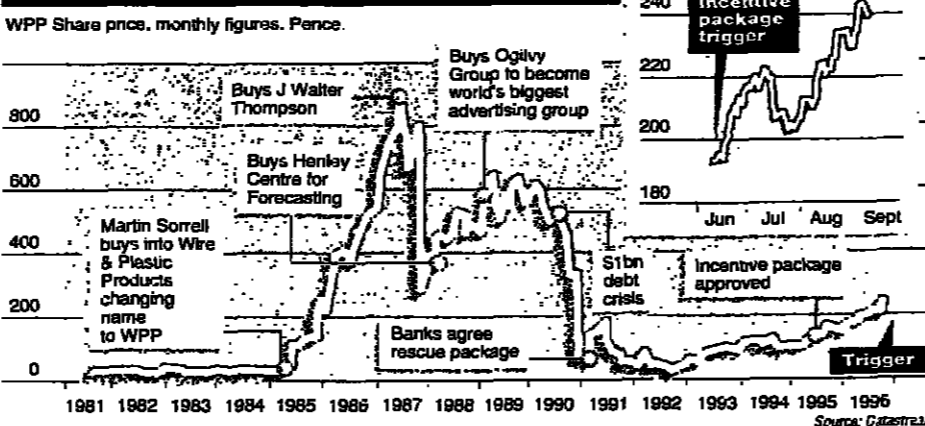
WPP share price has been above 198p thereby qualifying Mr Sorrell for his first tranche of 1.7 million shares, which he must retain until September 1999.

To collect the entire fortune, Mr Sorrell now has to get the group's share price to 304p and hold it there also for a period of 60 days. In the process he would have raised the group's stock market valuation from £845 million to £2.2 billion.

Thanks partly to the stock market's record-breaking run, the group's shares have moved up so fast that they have topped the 230p level at which the second stage of the scheme is triggered. This means Mr Sorrell is 38 days away from collecting a further 1.7 million shares.

The third stage is triggered when the shares reach 265p and the final payoff comes at

The big incentive



304p. Because the shares have already been acquired by WPP, the cost to the company is just £5.5 million.

Although a quarter of shareholders were against the scheme at the time, the majority were anxious for the

He bought into the company in 1983, when it was still called Wire & Plastic Products and its shares traded at less than 100p. In an astonishing series of deals he outdid Saatchi & Saatchi, where he was once finance director, acquiring J Walter Thompson and the Ogilvy and Mather group.

By 1990 it was clear the group had overextended itself at a time when the recession was savaging profits. A series of summit meetings with its banks culminated in 1992, with their holding half the group's shares.

A spokesman said yesterday that shareholders who came into the group even at its 1995 peak, and who took up all the subsequent rights issues, would by now be showing a profit on their holdings, even allowing for the 1993 fall.

The group to recover from the excesses of the glory ride it had been taken on by Mr Sorrell during the 1980s.

American rescue for Ulster jobs

David Sharrock reports on how technology has turned a town's fortunes round

AN NORTHERN Ireland town has gone from bust to boom after a factory, closed just a week ago, was bought yesterday by an American technology company.

Seagate Technology, one of the most successful foreign investors in Northern Ireland, is promising to create nearly 750 new jobs at the site in Limavady, Co Londonderry.

This is a far greater number than the 100 jobs lost last week when Hong Kong CD case manufacturer, Benelux, shut its plant.

The Northern Ireland industry minister, Baroness Denton, said the £68 million investment by the company, which already has a factory near Londonderry employing 789 people, scheduled to rise to 1,150 by Christmas 1998, was of the "utmost strategic significance" to the Northern Ireland economy.

A third of the investment, £24.2 million, is being supplied by the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board.

Production by Seagate of nickel-plated aluminium disc substrates — the core material for recording disc media on which computers read, write and store digital information — will begin in July and will mean 759 jobs at the Limavady site over the next two years.

The closure of Benelux's operation was a blow to the industrial development board, which had invested some £10 million in the factory little more than a year ago on the promise of 500 jobs.

The target was never reached and in April the workforce was reduced.

The final 100 people were paid off last week when production halted. Many of the Benelux workers are expected to be in line for retraining for jobs at Seagate.

According to some reports the IDB had been warned of the risky nature of the Benelux investment, which is irrecoverable. The grant was the equivalent of £260,000 per employee during the past year.

The huge jobs boost for the province — one of the largest in years — was confirmed as the CBI's Northern Ireland chairman, Bill Tosh, accused politicians of not taking economic and business issues sufficiently seriously.

He said these issues were very far down the political agenda. He had tried to set up meetings with political representatives and other contacts but, with very few exceptions, attempts to engage them had borne little fruit.

"What message are the politicians trying to give us by their lack of response to our overtures?" he asked. The summer of violence had led to lost orders and made the task of attracting inward investment even more difficult.

Mr Tosh said at a lunch in Belfast for 200 business executives and guests, which included CBI president Sir Colin Marshall and political representatives: "It is essential that we continue to keep banging home the message to both government and politicians that for the economy to grow to its potential we need political stability."



European happiness... Delegates at the TUC are backing an increasingly pro-EU agenda

Financial companies treat staff to Maastricht opt-in

WORKPLACE/Chris Barrie reports on moves by Commercial Union and HSBC set up European works councils

CLOSE to 65,000 workers won rights to formal consultation by their employers yesterday when two of the biggest companies in financial services announced that they were to set up European works councils.

The moves by insurer Commercial Union and international banking group HSBC, owner of the Midland Bank, came as it emerged that several large financial companies are to agree similar deals with worker representatives within ten days.

While unions indicated that talks were almost concluded on councils for employees at Barclays Bank and Norwich Union, delegates at the TUC debated one of the most enthusiastic motions about Europe tabled at the union event.

Unions have been encouraged by the way UK companies are choosing to include their British employees in the councils, despite the opt-out agreement secured at Maastricht.

Commercial Union said its council, covering 16,800 staff, would allow it to ex-

plain its strategy and would draw its European operations closer. It would not cover salaries, holiday entitlements and hours.

HSBC said its works council would cover 48,000 staff, mostly in the UK.

The Biff banking union welcomed the establishment of the council but attacked Midland's recent decision to derecognise 9,000 managers. Alan Scrimgeour, assistant secretary, said it was "illogical and an insult to their managers to deny them full union rights".

The HSBC council will

meet twice a year to discuss new technology, the company's business position and employment trends. The ten elected representatives will not be limited to trade unionists.

Midland's agreement follows a similar deal at National Westminster. Only Lloyds-TSB will lack a works council if the talks at Barclays are successful.

Lloyds said yesterday that it had no problem in communicating with its workforce, which was the main objective of the councils.

But Craig Hill, an official with Geneva-based Fiat — the European federation of trade unions in financial services — warned that Lloyds would be forced to the negotiating table. He said the European directive enforcing works councils would come into force on September 22, and many UK firms were keen to set up voluntary agreements before then because that allowed more flexible rules to be agreed.

Mr Hill said about 20 large financial services companies would have

agreed proposals for works councils by this month's deadline. Many manufacturing companies, including glass maker Pilkington and British Steel have already agreed to works councils.

Ian McCartney, shadow employment minister, said the majority of UK companies would have agreed to works councils, where applicable, before the next general election.

He said: "Employees in the UK have stuck two fingers up to the [social chapter] opt-out".

Rexam disposes of packaging

Outlook

Pauline Springett

REXAM had been invented yesterday, it is unlikely that it would contain its mishmash of businesses. Many companies are underperforming and three of its seven divisions fit poorly into the overall structure.

Rexam used to be known as Bowater. It manufactures packaging products like but-

ter and margarine tubs, milk cartons and plastic bottles; produces sterilisable medical packaging and coats paper and film for digital printing; it also makes lipstick containers.

The company fell out with the City last year after it was buffeted by searing raw materials prices and customer destocking.

Enter Rolf Bjorjesson as chief executive. He joined in July, replacing David Lyon. The 54-year-old Swede comes bursting with the right credentials, his background is in

consumer packaging, but he's not well known in the City. That is set to change.

Yesterday had been billed as the day on which he would unveil strategic changes.

Rexam presents even the most unimaginative new boss with scope for making his name. As Mr Bjorjesson said: "It is not absolutely clear internally or externally what type of business we are running." He has started by revamping the group reporting arrangement. Gone is the geographic structure. In its place are the seven different industrial sectors (see graphic). "The new decentralised structure is clear, flat and simple, which should lead to cost savings," said chairman Jeremy Lancaster.

Of greater immediate interest was the promise that non-performing businesses would be sold off in an attempt to streamline the group.

Rexam has already sold off business with annual sales of £200 million. Victor International Plastics and Lamotte Inc were sold this year and the disposal of Opax International is nearly complete. Since June most of the Australian Engineering Division and the Australian Security Products Division have gone.

Businesses with annual sales of up to £300 million will be next to go and it might not end there. All the group's companies will be reviewed, particularly those underperforming but which have a strong market share. If these cannot be brought up to scratch, they too might be sold.

Mr Bjorjesson was a little vague about how improvements would be achieved

Rexam	
Stock market value	£2,052m
Share price	406 1/2 p ▲12p
Workforce	25,000
Interest cover	6.7
1995/96	£ %
Sales	£1,237m -0.4
Pre-tax profit	£77m -31
Earnings/share	9.5p -35
Dividend/share	6.1p
Operating profit	Est. 1st half
Food & beverage packaging	13
Industrial packaging	17
Healthcare packaging	10
Beauty packaging	6
Printing	12
Coated films & papers	21
Building & engineering	14

And there must be continued worries that Rexam will remain vulnerable to cyclical raw materials prices, as well as moribund demand in some key markets.

Up to a point analysts liked what they heard — they could scarcely have argued with the aim of improving performance — but there was no euphoria, more bemusement.

Mr Bjorjesson has done the talking. Now he must produce results.

News in brief

Eurotunnel hires Tesco director

EUROTUNNEL has appointed a British-born businessman who has lived and worked in France for 17 years as finance director. Richard Shirrefs, aged 41, will be based in Calais and will be responsible for all the finance related functions of Eurotunnel. The task of managing debt restructuring negotiations with the banks will still be carried out by the company's treasurer, Michael Grant, although both jobs are likely to be integrated some time next year.

Mr Shirrefs, who has a French wife, is finance director of Tesco's French subsidiary, Catesau. — *Keith Harper*

Budge plans new mine

RJB Mining, which bought up most of British Coal's pits, yesterday insisted that the market for coal remained buoyant as it confirmed plans to sink the country's first deep mine in more than a decade. The group confirmed it was to apply for planning permission for a new 3 million tonne pit in the Witham district north of Newark.

Chief executive Richard Budge said the pit, which would not come on stream for at least 10 years, could create 500 mining jobs and a similar number in the construction phase. RJB, which has paid back most of the money it borrowed to buy 8C pits, reported flat profits for the six months to the end of June at £86 million. It is boosting the dividend by 45 per cent to 6p. — *Simon Brails*

Courtalds moves away

Courtalds Textiles, a supplier of underwear to Marks & Spencer, will spend up to £55 million reorganising the business over the next 18 months. This will include moving production from Britain to lower-cost countries, but the company would not quantify the potential job losses. The news came as Courtalds reported a slump in profits for the first half of the year from £10 million to just £500,000. — *Roger Coase*

Amstrad plunges into loss

THE Amstrad computer and cellphone company plunged to a loss of £14.5 million for 1995-96 after it set aside £10.7 million to pay for the restructuring and redundancy costs incurred in the wind-down of its consumer electronics business. A year ago it made a profit of £3.1 million.

The company also took a £300,000 charge to cover the cost of this summer's abortive merger talks with Psion, the palm-top computer maker. — *Blombery*

BSkyB screens out rival's television advertising

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

ANEW phase in the battle between satellite and cable channels erupted yesterday after BSkyB stopped a £400,000 advertising campaign being run on its channels by a rival station.

But after Carlton Select, the cable channel owned by Carlton Communications, threatened to protest to the Independent Television Commission, the commercials were reinstated within 24 hours.

The campaign, which included the purchasing "only on cable", first ran in July. The second phase of advertisements — also running on Carlton, Central, UK Living and UK Gold as part of a £1 million campaign — began last week.

Janet Goldsmith, managing director of Carlton Select, which features reruns of pro-

grammes including Birds of a Feather, Lovejoy, Peak Practice and Soldier, Soldier, said Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB pulled the campaign on Monday afternoon. About 20 slots were missed before BSkyB reconsidered its decision last night.

The commission said that, under fair competition rules in the Broadcasting Act, television channels must accept generic advertising from rivals — but they do not have to accept advertisements promoting individual programmes.

Carlton, which started a new cable channel, Carlton Food Network, last week, believes that its programmes, which are available in 1.1 million homes might be hitting BSkyB's ratings.

The television arm of the Daily Mail and General Trust has confirmed that it is in talks with BSkyB about starting a lifestyle channel.

HAGGAS

JOHN HAGGAS PLC

	30th June 1996 (audited)	30th June 1995 (audited)
Turnover	4,487.4	3,996.1
Profit before taxation	270.0	251.1
Taxation	-85.5	-83.1
Profit attributable to shareholders	184.5	172.0
Dividends	-99.7	-65.8
Retained profit	84.8	106.2
Earnings per share	8.4p	7.8p

The directors recommend that a final dividend of 4p per share be paid on 29th November 1996 to shareholders registered on 15th October 1996. With the interim of 1.5p this makes a total of 5.5p which is a 30% increase on last year.



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The easy part... José-Maria Olazabal has no pain hitting his golf shots but in between suffers agony from arthritis for which he has yet to find a cure

PHOTOGRAPH: STUART FRANKLIN

Olazabal walking a tightrope of pain

David Davies remembers an unhappy anniversary of a Master golfer in torment

ALONGSIDE the 7th fairway at the Royal San Sebastian Golf Club there is, among the tall trees, a magnificent new home of understated opulence. By the standards of Fuenterrabia, the village that houses the golf club, it is a palace. Sadly for the last 12 months it has become Fortress José-Maria Olazabal.

This week is the anniversary of the last time the 1992 US Masters champion touched a golf club in anger. A year ago he came neither for the Trophée de la Ville de Biarritz nor the Nom-Lab-Bretèche when the problem that had been troubling him for more than nine months finally became too much to bear. He would play well for 10 to 12 holes, be well under par and then ruin everything by dropping shot after shot as his concentra-

tion was destroyed by the sheer pain in his feet. He had rheumatoid arthritis, was forced there and then to drop out of the Ryder Cup team and has not played competitively since. Now there is considerable doubt as to whether he will play tournament golf again. Certainly he has no intention of resuming his career in the foreseeable future, apart from a possible appearance in the Perrier Pairs competition on October 17-20 in Bordeaux, in which, because it counts neither for the Ryder Cup or Volvo rankings points, he would be able to use a motorised buggy.

It is not the shots but walking between them for four to five hours that becomes unbearable. He has spent the last year practising almost daily at the driving range at San Sebastian, sometimes staying for three to four hours. Then he will retreat to the putting green that lies beside his parents' home, a 250-year-old Basque farmhouse, overlooking the 9th green. Two weeks from the putting green and he is at the kitchen table, for lunch, for dinner, whatever. In his formative years he spent hours after hours on that practice green, learning the short-game skills that made him the most formidable exponent of that part of the game since another Spaniard from just down the road, Severiano Ballesteros.

ened, he has become more depressed than ever. "He will have to make a decision soon," said Gomez. "He cannot carry on like this all the time. He will not take painkillers but maybe he should realise there is always going to be some pain and try to play golf with that pain." But Gomez is helpless before a strong-willed, stubborn Olazabal, who has always been his own man and who has shunned the world's media during these last 12 months to an obsessive degree. A journalist who went to his house was told to go away, in unmistakable terms, through the letter box. Before his illness, whenever he could not hunt properly because of the pain, Olazabal has loved these outings in the past; they are the reason he decided against playing the US Tour on a regular basis, they are part of his heritage and of his present and, now he realises that even this part of his life is threat-

Doncaster runners and riders with form guide

- 1.30 Out West
2.00 CORRADINI (new)
2.25 Outlander
3.10 Russian Snoves
3.40 Blue Lige
4.10 Lago di Varano (nb)
4.40 Classic Flyer

Doncaster, 9. Doncaster Millers, Gallop Good. Figures in brackets after horse's name show latest race since last start.
1.30 OWNERS OWN YOUNGSTER DRAGONS CONDITIONS STAKES 2YO 7H 64,525
1-21 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
1-22 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
1-23 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
1-24 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
1-25 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

- Channel 4
3.10 STONES BITTER PARK HILL STAKES (Group 2) 2YO 7H 64,525
401 271-28 RUSSIAN SNOWS (2) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
402 11212 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
403 11212 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
404 11212 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
405 11212 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

Epsom

- 2.10 Sea-Take
2.45 Portland
2.20 Mains
3.50 Dear Life
4.20 Bellerophon Park
4.50 Hoppala
5.20 Asford

Drawn High numbers favoured over St. Godey (last to finish). Doncaster Millers. Figures in brackets after horse's name show latest race since last start.
2.10 LINDALE VALLEY HERMAN DETONATION MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7H 64,525
1 1-21 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
2 2-22 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
3 3-23 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
4 4-24 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
5 5-25 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

Racing

Russian Snoves can keep Cecil in second place

Chris Hawkins
NEWMARKET trainers look set to dominate the first day of the Doncaster St Leger meeting when Henry Cecil will be trying to whitewash away Saeed bin Suroor's narrow lead in the prize-money table. Cecil, with win and place money of £1,234,000, trails by just over £17,000, but could go top if today's results go his way. Out West (1.30) should get him off to a good start. The filly is not easy to assess, having won very easily from modest opposition at Beverley on her debut, but the time was good and the 5lb shee record from Benny The Dip could prove decisive. In the following Mallard Handicap, Cecil's Corradini (2.00) looks one of the day's best bets after an unlucky run in the Ebor at York.

Kelren Fallon had trouble getting a clear run on Corradini, who came on the scene too late when third to Clendenwell. Today's slightly longer trip will suit him and he probably has most to fear from the evergreen Highflyer, who even at 10 is still a force to be reckoned with. The key contest for Cecil, however, is the Stomes Bitter Park Hill Stakes in which his unbeaten filly Eva Luna is taken on by Saeed bin Suroor's Russian Snoves. Eva Luna is a four-year-old but has run only twice, winning the Cotuites Stakes at York recently in controversial circumstances, this being the race which earned Pat Eddowes a two-day whip ban. She was all out to hold Time Allowed by a head then and meets her victim on 2lb worse terms now. As Time Allowed had been beaten in a Goodwood handicap previously the form does not look up to that of Russian Snoves, who was runner-up in last year's Irish Oaks and third in the Yorkshire Oaks three weeks ago. That, at least, was the position in which she passed the

2.00 SUTWELL ANNE MALLARD HANDICAP 1m of 130yds 610,250
801 34113 CORRADINI (2) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
802 34113 CORRADINI (2) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
803 34113 CORRADINI (2) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
804 34113 CORRADINI (2) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
805 34113 CORRADINI (2) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

Channel 4
4.10 TOTTS-PORTLAND HANDICAP 2 540yds 617,516
601 12112 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
602 12112 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
603 12112 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
604 12112 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
605 12112 BEADCHAMP JADE (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

3.50 SOUTHERN MOBILE HANDICAP 2m of 10yds 624,525
1 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
2 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
3 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
4 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
5 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

Exeter (N.H.)

- 2.20 Marlborough
2.35 Northway
3.50 Out Ranking
4.00 Movers Race
4.20 Cheltenham
5.00 Cannon Park

2.20 DEVON COUNTY CARRIAGE HANDICAP 2m of 62,525
1 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
2 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
3 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
4 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
5 120-256 BILLY ACADEMY (1) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

0930 168+ RACELINE COMMENTARY
DONCASTER EPSOM EXETER

Evry earner
JENNELLE, trained by Chris Dwyer and ridden by the fourth of five behind her in the favourite. Pas de Repose, in yesterday's Group 3 Prix d'Ardenberg at Evry.

4.20 WESTWOOD HOUSE CONDITIONS STAKES 6-6448
1 214-10 HENRY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
2 214-10 HENRY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
3 214-10 HENRY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
4 214-10 HENRY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
5 214-10 HENRY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

5.00 COX OF DEVON JUVENILE MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7H 64,525
1 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
2 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
3 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
4 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
5 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

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1 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
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3 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
4 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7
5 312 DENBY THE DEP (7) (M) J. Gosden 9-1 J. Fallon 7

The Open University
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Soccer

Uefa Cup: First round, first leg: Newcastle 4, Halmstad 0

Keegan's men pass first European test

Michael Walker

NEWCASTLE United, inspired by Peter Beardsley...

to the ball and headed Newcastle one up.

rusted the outside of Srnic's netting. Keegan made one change at half time...



Crowded house... Ferdinand arrives fractionally before Halmstad's goalkeeper Nordberg to head Newcastle's first goal

MICHAEL STEELE

Aston Villa 1, Helsingborg 1

Villa miss the Baltic boat

Ian Maith

ASTON VILLA dipped their toes back into the waters of European football last night...

they were knocked out of the competition by another unfancied side, Trabzonspor of Turkey.

drove Villa continually forward but Powell was always a threat and when he was again offered a glimpse of the Villa goal, he shot just wide.

ing for cutting down Johnson in full stride.

Venables rules out Rangers

TERRY VENABLES has pledged his future to Portsmouth, ending speculation that he could return to Queens Park Rangers as manager.

Leeds forget past and pin faith on Graham

Ian Ross finds the new man in the hot seat at Elland Road ready to stamp his authority

THE rehabilitation of George Graham began in earnest yesterday with his installation as the new manager of Leeds United.

opened to him but we decided it was not relevant.

took over we looked at Howard Wilkinson's record and wanted to stick with him but it just didn't work out...

Celtic 0, Hamburg 2

Head start for Hamburg

Dixon Blackstock

CELTIC'S European ambitions were dealt a shattering blow by a Hamburg side which has flopped in the German Bundesliga this season.

looks to have put paid to Celtic's Uefa Cup hopes.

it into the net. Celebrations were cut short, however, when the Italian referee spotted a flag and gave an offside decision.

Brave Barry run out of puff and luck in Aberdeen

THE League of Wales champions Barry Town have been a full-time professional side for only a year and that just about summed up their first-leg display at Pittodrie...

McLean quits Raith to unite with brother

TOMMY McLEAN resigned as manager of Raith Rovers yesterday a mere week after being appointed.

McLean quits Raith to unite with brother

were knocked out of the Coca-Cola Cup on penalties by their arch-rivals Dundee.

McLean quits Raith to unite with brother

Tommy McLean, who was in charge of Raith for only one match - last week's 4-1 mauling at home by Aberdeen - claimed it had been a difficult decision to leave after such a short stay.

McLean quits Raith to unite with brother

United have agreed compensation with Raith, who are looking for their fourth manager in six months.

Results

Soccer

Table with soccer results including UEFA Cup, National League, and Nationwide League.

Table with soccer results including National League and Nationwide League.

Table with soccer results including National League and Nationwide League.

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Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'The Guardian Soccer Champions League', 'United pass tactical', 'Three up from goal out for', 'Sport in brief', 'Cycling', 'American Football', 'Basketball', 'Baseball', and 'Cricket'.

Sports Guardian

WRIGHT'S LAST-GASP STRIKE GIVES OUTPLAYED ARSENAL GLIMMER OF HOPE



Hanging around... the Borussia goalkeeper Uwe Kamps keeps his eye on the ball as Ian Wright lurks hopefully in the Highbury goalmouth last night. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Uefa Cup: First round, first leg: Arsenal 2, Borussia Mönchengladbach 3

Hard lessons at Highbury

Martin Thorpe

ARSENAL look to be out of Europe after this disappointing defeat last night. One goal that looked outside and another presented on a plate by two Arsenal errors, plus a third 10 minutes from time from an unmarked header by Passlack, leave the caretaker manager Stewart Houston with an awkward task in the second leg in Germany to prove that the Gunners were wrong to overlook him as manager. Wright at least kept Arsenal in with a chance when his header was parried by the visiting goalkeeper

Kamps a minute from time and the striker followed up to tap in the loose ball. Kamps then performed heroics in injury time to tip over a 30-yard shot from Merson, and then a back-post header from Hartson. The last time Arsenal were at this stage in Europe the manager was George Graham and what a supreme irony that the club should return to international competition without a manager on the day Graham eventually found new employment. One thing Arsenal are not missing is European experience and they needed every ounce last night against a strong German side who, though looking like a team of

referees in their all-black kit, are not used to blowing up in Europe. An early reminder came on 13 minutes when Effenberg's lazy lay-off found the Pole Juskowiak unmarked 12 yards out. Seaman, back in the side after a hamstring injury, showed quick enough reflexes to snaffle the shot. It was not the only time Arsenal were thankful for the return of the hero of Euro 96. Ten minutes before the break he brilliantly tipped wide a vicious 25-yard shot from Effenberg. Arsenal's concerns had been weighing heavily since the 19th minute when their playmaker Bergkamp was forced to hobble off with a leg

injury. However, the home side still showed nerve coming forward and carved out three decent chances in the first half. Wright forced the goalkeeper Kamps to save from a back-header then Arsenal's leading scorer in Europe cleverly created room 14 yards out and fired in a shot which Kamps acrobatically turned away one-handed. The best opportunity for Arsenal came 15 minutes before the break when Hartson fired in Dixon's cross only to see the ball hit the post and rebound into the keeper's arms. Four minutes later the Germans went one better and scored a vital away goal. Nielsen threaded a pass through

the Arsenal back line to Juskowiak who slipped the ball beyond Seaman. The Pole looked offside but the Swiss linesman kept his flag down and Arsenal were behind. Worse was to follow for the Gunners. Whatever was said in the dressing-room at half-time was undone just 52 seconds into the second half through, of all things, a mistake by Seaman that handed the Germans a second goal. There had been an initial error by Linighan, who miscontrolled Nielsen's through-ball just outside the Arsenal area, then allowed Effenberg to beat him for pace. The German's shot went straight at Seaman, but England's No. 1 uncharacteristically failed to

hold it and Effenberg snapped up the rebound. As in their last two league games Arsenal woke up at 3-0 behind and Merson pulled a goal back, bending a fierce-some 25-yard shot inside Kamps's post. Arsenal pressed for another goal, Platt shooting just wide, then Kamps tipping Wright's shot an inch past the post after smart work from Winterburn. The home crowd's blood was up and Arsenal were in full cry. Arsenal: Seaman; Dixon, Linighan, Seaman, Winterburn, Merson, Partridge, Bergkamp, Effenberg, Wright, Hartson. Borussia Mönchengladbach: Kamps; Passlack, Anderson, Fournier, Nemm, Hochstätter, Lupsaco, Schneider, Elmberg, Nielsen, Juskowiak. Referee: U. Meier (Switzerland)

The League leaders face judgment day



Vincent Hanna

ANY day now the Federal Appeal Court in Australia will hand down its decision on the dispute between the Rugby League (ARL) and the Superleague. Or, to put it another way, Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch will finally get to settle who runs what is left of the game there. It is a mouth-watering prospect. One club official said that most want the court's judgment to be vague enough to deny victory to either side. "Then the big boys can cut out the crap and start dealing." I think this means that Packer could privately offer some of his television rights - ironically he owns them for both ARL and Superleague games - to Murdoch so that everyone gets a piece of the action and the eight Superleague clubs can reunite with the 12 ARL ones. The game there may not survive another season of discord. Speaking of backstairs activities, I heard reports from Australia that there had been "talks" between the ARL and some dissatisfied first and second division English clubs. Everyone here denies it. There is general relief that Rugby League survived a summer programme that clashed with Euro 96 and the Olympics. The Superleague is presenting itself. "I give it eight out of ten," said Maurice Lindsay, who likes a good press. He dismissed the ARL story. "It's complete rubbish," he said. "The ARL were in London for the International Board in April. I'm fully aware that they tried to court at least one of our clubs but nothing came of it."

national," he said, "and we'd be daft not to be." Indeed he would. Swinton have been promoted to the First Division. "We did the work, we went round the schools, let kids with their parents in free and we've doubled our attendance figures." The Superleague also attracted big crowds, relatively speaking, compared with the average of the last 20 years. Eleven of the 12 clubs showed increases. St Helens were up by 62 per cent, the Bradford Bulls by 96 per cent and the London Broncos by 258 per cent. But Wigan's average attendance was 10,168. This would put them halfway down soccer's First Division. So what about Lindsay's negative two out of ten? For a start the inconsistent starting times have dismayed some fans. A League game in the North is like a town meeting, and people are set in their ways. One Central Park regular said that for 10 years his family had joined a friend's family for Sunday lunch before every Wigan home game. "I've hardly seen them this year," he added. But he conceded that the summer game had attracted more women and children. "Changes are coming," said Lindsay. "We will standardise kick-off times so that the fans know where they are, and we'll have a longer lead-in to next season. Also we shall run on into October."

Some suspicious people noted that Keighley were openly disgruntled about not making the Superleague. It is also true that some clubs are complaining about their slice of the Murdoch £87 million cake but at a meeting of the smaller clubs on Sunday night everyone swore that they had never spoken to an Australian nor even listened to a Rolf Harris record. Malcolm White, chairman of Swinton Lions, was at the meeting. "We were unanimous and enthusiastic in our support for News Interna-

But what about Australia? Lindsay conceded that it was a disaster, especially financially, that the forthcoming Great Britain tour would bypass Australia. He wants to see a deal between Packer and Murdoch - "but it's not very personal, you know" - and has come under some pressure himself. I hear rumours that Lindsay is about to move on to some other plum job but he will have none of this. "When I'm under pressure," he said, "I roll my sleeves up higher. I want to stay in charge. It's worth it, especially when you can see games like the Premiership final." He is right about that. I hope some of you caught the St Helens-Wigan game on Sunday, a breathtaking exhibition in front of 36,013 at Old Trafford, especially that first try by Gary Connolly. Connolly, who picked up from dummy half and left for dead the best defence in rugby, has that upright, balanced running style of the great centre three-quarters. He reminds me of Mike Gibson, only bigger. I cannot wait to see him play for Harlequins.

MORSE

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Hussain moves up order

Mike Selvey on the England vice-captain promoted above Stewart for the winter tour

DOUBTS about Michael Atherton's long-term future as England captain were raised yesterday when he was given Nasser Hussain as his deputy for this winter's tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand. The chairman of selectors Raymond Illingworth said much would depend on next summer's Ashes series against Australia. Although England do not nominate an official deputy for international matches in this country, Alec Stewart has done the job on previous tours. But he is 33 and, despite being included in yesterday's 15-man tour party, has been passed over for a younger man: Hussain, at 29, is five days Atherton's junior. "Age was certainly the consideration with Hussain," Illingworth admitted, "because we are looking to the future. We just don't know how much longer Mike would want to continue. It is something that we have spoken about and, if it goes well and he is making runs, then I have no doubt he would want to continue. "But, if it goes badly, particularly against Australia next

summer, then he might look on it in a different light." Atherton will regard Illingworth's comments with equanimity, just as he has the job itself. Since taking over from Graham Gooch in 1992 Atherton has led England on 38 occasions. Only Peter May, with 41 matches, stands ahead of him. Assuming he plays in every England Test until then, next summer's second against Australia at Lord's will see



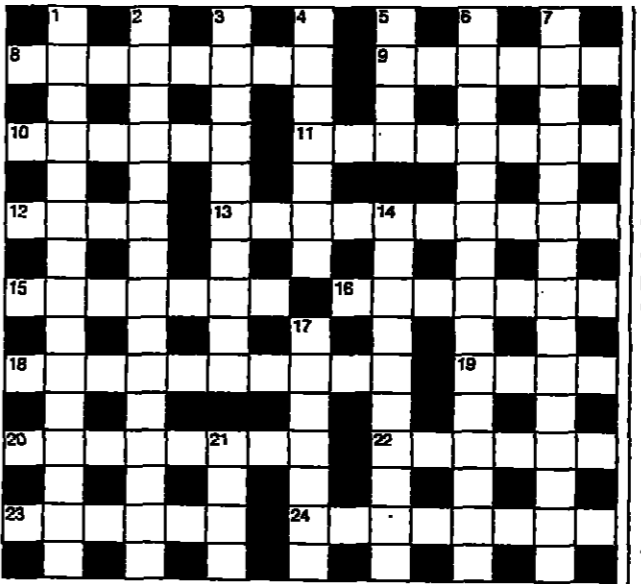
Hussain... heir apparent

Atherton overtake that mark. But Atherton, 62 Tests in total, has maintained that the captaincy is not something he has ever craved or openly sought. He enjoys the stimulation of the job as well as the benefits but would not be in the market for post-traumatic stress counselling should the job disappear. However, he is aware of the prestige and is not blind to the fact that an England captain, in the course of, say, a decade would be likely to earn upwards of £2 million. Having survived the infamous dirt-in-the-pocket affair, it would take a lot to deflect him from his purpose now. Hussain's promotion represents a massive leap up the ladder. Following a poor tour of the Caribbean in 1994 the Essex batsman was pushed aside and returned to the fold only this season. He cemented his place with two centuries against India and has now played in 12 Tests. The England coach David Lloyd has agreed a two-year deal with the Test and County Cricket Board. He had been unhappy with the original terms but the issue was settled during a meeting with the TCCB's chief executive Alan Smith.

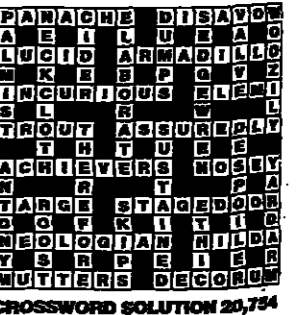
Tufnell's recall, page 15

Guardian Crossword No 20,755

Set by Gordius



- Across**
- 8 Travelling about a long distance is no trouble (2,6)
 - 9 It holds everything in liquid form (6)
 - 10 Against putting proportion of freight traffic on trains (6)
 - 11 With reduced overhead coverage to one less covered (9)
 - 12 Kind of 5 without head may be in the eye of the beholder (4)
 - 13 At least eastern ice melts to give spring (10)
 - 15 A lady of aimless disposition (7)
 - 16 State heir-apparent goes to Greek soothsayer (7)
 - 18 A bit of foul play? (5,5)
 - 19 Kind of monster to go round and about (4)
 - 20 A little interest leads to a big return, taken as a whole (8)
- Down**
- 1 24 where to get 21 in 6 (3,2,3,7)
 - 2 6 residences? (7,2,3,3)
 - 3 Philosopher carrying a package has cause for apprehension (10)
 - 4, 17 A trivially true exercise? It's in the eye of the beholder (7,7)
 - 5 There's nothing new about Tudor (4)
 - 6 Where one may live away from 17... (5,5,4)
 - 7 ... which could make an expert medico a necessity (8,7)
- 14** Strad maker's identifying characteristics? (10)
- 17** see 4
- 21** Abundant teaching given by the church (4)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 22 Hood deceives his friends (5)
- 23 Signs of the return of 12 across shortly (6)
- 24 Assumed to be, though maybe not, in 17 (5,9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,754

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Inside

مكاتبنا في القاهرة